

This week, the House passed the final, negotiated Budget Resolution for fiscal year 2008 by a vote of 214 to 209. It unfortunately increases taxes and spending so I voted against it. While this overall blueprint has passed, the debate on many of the specific details now begins in the Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate. We are informed that these debates will reach the House floor in June.

The House has also recently worked on three major bills: the 2008 Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act, the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, and the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2007. I thought you may be interested to know of three amendments I offered during debate of these bills. All were approved by the House of Representatives.

### **Amendment to the 2008 Homeland Security Authorization Act**

My amendment will ensure greater communication between states and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), so that states are better prepared to respond to DHS actions. The amendment also provides increased coordination between states and the DHS when federal grants are awarded.

### **Amendment to the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act**

The amendment restores \$10 million the House Armed Services Committee cut from the President's budget request for the X Lab battlespace laboratory, which is critical to an effective national missile defense. The X Lab is a top missile defense priority of General James Cartwright of USSTRATCOM, the joint command responsible for coordinating national missile defense capabilities among the

branches of the armed services.

### **Amendment to the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2007**

My amendment provides the Board of Directors of a Federal Home Loan Bank with the authority to increase the minimum number of elected directors from each state in an FHLBank district to serve on its board. This could benefit our state since Nebraska currently has only one director. This gives each FHLBank Board of Directors the power to allocate what it believes is the best number of member directors from each state in an FHLBank district.

Next week we hope to complete action on the Iraq Supplemental Appropriations bill so that our troops in the field can get the supplies they need. Military commanders say that unless these funds are approved soon, the Pentagon will run short of the needed supplies and equipment necessary for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

