

Office of U.S. Congresswoman Lauren Boebert

Testimony Before the House Budget Committee

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Mr. Chairman, we need a real budget that puts the US on a path to fiscal solvency. Democrats are not serious about the fiscal health of the country.

- Democrats waited until we were nearly half-way through the fiscal year before they even brought forth an FY 21 budget. We know this was a sham process and only meant to cram \$1.9 trillion in new spending down the American people's throats.
- As if once wasn't enough, they're back at it again this time it may be a lot worse.
- Mr. Chairman, and my colleagues on the Committee, federal deficits are on track to exceed \$3 trillion this year and the national debt will reach a new record.
- The non-partisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget [estimates](#) debt will now total 108 percent of GDP this year, which will surpass the prior record of 106 percent set just after World War II and it will rise to 113 percent of GDP over the next ten years (2031), irrespective of any potential economic feedback effects of the stimulus bills.
- CBO had previously projected that debt would grow by \$14.3 trillion, from \$21.0 trillion at the end of 2020 to \$35.3 trillion at the end of 2031. With the Democrats' \$1.9 trillion so-called Covid-relief, debt is projected to increase by \$16.3 trillion over that same period, rising to \$37.4 trillion by the end of 2031.
- The Biden administration has talked about raising taxes in order to pay for all this extra spending. Mr. Chairman I submit, we do not have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem; you can't tax your way out of it. I urge my colleagues to take the FY 22 budget as an opportunity to show some restraint and fiscal sanity.
- That means we need an actual budget process that forces prioritization of limited resources. That's what leadership is all about.
- Mr. Chairman, I represent the people of Colorado's third Congressional district, which covers 52,000 square miles, 47 percent of the state and is the 2nd largest Congressional district that is not an at-large state and 55 percent of the 3rd district is public land. So the decision the Biden administration made to shutdown oil and natural gas development on public lands is a big deal to us.
- Every decision about public land management and development is a big deal to us and other districts where most of the public land in our country is located.
- Mr. Chairman that is why it is so important that the Bureau of Land Management Headquarters stays in Grand Junction, Colorado.
- Grand Junction was selected for the headquarters location because of its substantial cost savings, travel accessibility, quality of life attributes, and increased representation among the communities affected by land management decisions.

- It makes economic sense and has already saved money. The Department of the Interior estimates that in 2021, the move west will save more than \$2 million in lease costs and \$1.9 million in salary savings. Additionally, the agency reported \$1.9 million in savings on travel costs in 2020.
- And it makes the most sense that the decisions are made closest to the people and lands most directly impacted. Since 99 percent of the lands the bureau manages are West of the Mississippi, it only makes sense to have the agency located close to those communities it serves, out West.
- Keeping the BLM head quarters out West is one example of a decision we can make to save taxpayer money and benefit those most directly impacted by land management decisions.
- Mr. Chairman, as we contemplate the FY 22 budget process, I urge you to take this opportunity to put the country on a path to fiscal solvency and make wise decisions.