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**Blue Dogs Issue Benchmarks for Fiscal Reform  
March 30, 2011**

Today the Blue Dog Coalition—a group of fiscally conservative House Democrats—released benchmarks for fiscal reform, calling for a bold package to put the national debt on a sustainable path.

We commend the Blue Dogs for offering a sound framework and are hopeful that it will inform and encourage bipartisan action in Congress on a comprehensive, multi-year fiscal plan that puts the country on a sustainable course.

Among the Blue Dog criteria include cutting the deficit by \$4 trillion over the next 10 years, stabilizing the debt at or below 60 percent of GDP by 2024, and returning discretionary spending to 2008 levels by 2013. The Blue Dogs call for two thirds of deficit reduction to come from spending and a third from revenues—with everything on the table, including security and non-security discretionary cuts, taxes, entitlement reform, other mandatory policies, and process reforms.

“The Blue Dogs have done an excellent job outlining the parameters for legislative action to confront our mounting debt,” said Maya MacGuineas, president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. “Their framework is bold and balanced, and we’d all be lucky if the final deal reflects their framework. While this is not the only approach to fixing our budget challenges, it is one that would not only reassure markets, it lends itself to bipartisan compromise, which is a key stepping stone to success.”

In the last two weeks, 64 Senators and, separately, 10 former chairs of the Council of Economic Advisers called on the White House to negotiate a comprehensive deficit reduction plan.

“The Blue Dogs have added their voice to a growing chorus of leaders and experts from both sides of the aisle who are ready to come together to solve this problem,” MacGuineas said. “The President and congressional leadership should heed the call.”