

WASHINGTON, DC – Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (MD-5) released the following statement tonight after President Obama delivered his State of the Union Address:

“President Obama delivered a compelling vision of how we can work together to address America’s challenges. While our economy is on the road back to health, we know we still have a long way to go—and tonight, the president discussed a strategy for getting us there.

“President Obama is right that investments in innovation, education, and infrastructure remain vital to creating jobs, strengthening our international competitiveness, and taking advantage of emerging economic sectors, such as clean energy and advanced vehicles. This agenda encompasses House Democrats' Make It In America agenda: a plan to rebuild American manufacturing and productivity, and to lift up our middle class so that they can succeed in America.

“At the same time, the president explained how our deficit stifles middle-class opportunities. The president has outlined some first steps that demonstrate his fiscal seriousness. But there is much more to do, and I hope that both parties will tackle our deficit with common purpose—not by proposing small symbolic cuts, but by taking the real action that fiscal responsibility demands: pursuing tax reform and simplification that reduces the deficit and creates jobs; scrutinizing defense spending for waste; and keeping Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid solvent.

“Finally, just as the president ended our combat mission in Iraq, he is focused on transitioning to an Afghan-led fight and beginning the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan. Our troops have put al-Qaeda and Taliban leadership under unprecedented pressure, which both helps to protect America from terrorist attacks and helps the Afghan government to ultimately stand on its own feet. Democrats also remain committed to countering the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and we have made unparalleled strides to stem Iranian nuclear ambitions.

“Tonight’s address is an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the unified effort that our common challenges demand.”