



**Statement by Steve Ellis, Vice President of Taxpayers for Common Sense at the  
Green Scissors report release**

**July 22, 2010**

Good Morning, I'm Steve Ellis, Vice President of Taxpayers for Common Sense, a national, non-partisan budget watchdog. Thanks for being here today for the release of Green Scissors 2010 – a collaborative report compiled by taxpayer, environmental and consumer groups that details more than \$200 billion in wasteful spending that could be eliminated to help cut the deficit and boost the environment. Let me just repeat that number – more than \$200 billion in wasteful spending.

With the country staring down the barrel of record budget deficits, we need to be searching the couch cushions for any spare change. With that in mind, cutting billions in subsidies that waste taxpayer money and harm the environment should be a no-brainer. This report details scores of wasteful subsidies, projects and programs that should be cut. It runs the gamut from energy to agriculture; from infrastructure to public lands. From tax breaks like the arcane percentage depletion allowance to spending billions on inland navigation locks that are economic losers; from cotton subsidies to millionaires to billions for more bridges to nowhere.

We have learned over the years that finding allies with disparate interests with a common goal is a key path to victory in this town. Green Scissors is born out of that experience. And you can find some of our past successes listed in the report.

We're happy to be joined today by a bi-partisan group of dedicated lawmakers who see the strength in a green scissors approach to the budget. And we're going to be supporting their efforts to enact some of these cuts. We're excited to have them here because they are veterans of these types of fights over the years and have the scars to prove it. I'd like to invite each of them to make some comments and then we will hear from the groups we worked with on the report.

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