Economic Policy Institute

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MEDIA ADVISORY
News Briefing Conference Call – FRIDAY, Jan. 9, NOON EST

Can Bush Meet His Own Benchmark for Job Creation?

Join economists from the Economic Policy Institute for an analysis of the Bureau of Labor Statistics job report (that will be released Friday, January 9 at 8:30 a.m. EST) and an assessment of the administration's economic policy to create jobs.

Friday, January 9, 8:30 a.m. Eastern time will be a moment of truth for the Bush administration. That's when the Bureau of Labor Statistics will release the December jobs report, and we will have an opportunity to measure how well the president's economic program is doing at meeting the goals he and his economic advisers set for it.

The administration proposed tax cuts that they claimed would create 1.4 million additional jobs (over and above the 4.1 million that would be created by normal economic growth) by the end of 2004, with 510,000 of these extra jobs coming by the end of 2003.
(See: http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/04/20030415-4.html)

The December jobs numbers will offer an opportunity to measure how well the president's economic program is doing at meeting his stated goal. As of November, the "jobs and growth" plan trailed its target by 1,259,000 jobs. Instead of adding 1,530,000 jobs since June, we had only added 271,000. Job growth has been far less than what the administration projected for the economy, assuming there was no tax cut.

WHEN: Friday, January 9, 2004 at NOON EST

WHERE: Via telephone conference call. Contact EPI to join the call.

WHO: Lee Price, EPI research director
               Jared Bernstein, EPI economist

**To reserve a place on the conference call list and to get the toll-free access number and password, contact
EPI Communications Department at 202-775-8810 or kconner@epinet.org by
5:00 pm EST on THURSDAY, Jan. 8, 2004.**

The Economic Policy Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan economic think tank founded in 1986. The Institute can found on the web at http://www.epinet.org.