and Mr. SPRATT changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mrs. LUMMIS and Messrs. BILBRAY, COLE, LATHAM and HERGER changed their vote from ''nay'' to yea.''

So the motion to commit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote 36, I inadvertently voted "nay." I meant to vote "yea."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the Senate bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 250, nays 177, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 37]

YEAS—250

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Adler (NJ)
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Boswell
Boucher
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Ellsworth
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Giffords
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Maffei
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McMahon
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Pingree (ME)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis (CA)
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Wexler
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NAYS—177

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Chaffetz
Childers
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
Fallin
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Hunter
Inglis
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Lamborn
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Olson
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rehberg
Reichert
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schmidt
Schock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Turner
Upton
Walden
Wamp
Westmoreland
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—6

Brown-Waite, Ginny
Etheridge
Lynch
Pallone
Tiberi
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DELAURO) (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining in this vote.

□ 1625

So the Senate bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN). Pending any declaration of the House into the Committee of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 88 for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1—which contains an emergency designation for purposes of pay-as-you-go principles—the Chair must put the question of consideration under clause 10(c)(3) of rule XXI.

The question is, ''Will the House now consider the bill?''

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 224, noes 199, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 38]

AYES—224

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Adler (NJ)
Altmire
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boccieri
Boswell
Boucher
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson (IN)
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Driehaus
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ellison
Engel
Eshoo
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Fudge
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Heinrich
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Kagen
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kosmas
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Loebsack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Luján
Maffei
Maloney
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Massa
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McMahon
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor (AZ)
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Pingree (ME)
Polis (CO)

Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis (CA)
Speier
Spratt
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

NOES—199

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Arcuri
Austria
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Berry
Biggert
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (TX)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Campbell
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Carney
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Chaffetz
Childers
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cole
Conaway
Cooper
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Donnelly (IN)
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Ellsworth
Emerson
Fallin
Flake
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Griffith
Guthrie
Hall (TX)
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hoekstra
Hunter
Inglis
Issa
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Kratovil
Lamborn
Lance
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (NY)
Lewis (CA)
LoBiondo
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Lummis
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
Marshall
McCarthy (CA)
McCaul
McClintock
McCotter
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McMorris Rodgers
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Minnick
Moran (KS)
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Olson
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Peterson
Petri
Platts
Poe (TX)
Posey
Price (GA)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rehberg
Reichert
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Sanchez, Loretta
Scalise
Schmidt
Schock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Space
Stearns
Sullivan
Taylor
Terry
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Turner
Upton
Walden
Wamp
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—10

Brown-Waite, Ginny
Etheridge
Kingston
Linder
Lynch
McCarthy (NY)
Pitts
Stark
Tiberi
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1642

Mr. BOSWELL changed his vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the question of consideration was decided in the affirmative.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, I was unexpectedly detained and missed one vote.

On rollcall No. 38, on the question of consideration of the bill H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, I would have voted ''aye.''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 88 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1.

□ 1643

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1) making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes, with Mr. TIERNEY in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall not exceed 3½ hours, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, who may yield control of blocks of that time.

The gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) each will control 1 hour and 45 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

□ 1645

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, this country is facing what most economists, I believe, consider to be the most serious and the most dangerous economic situation in our lifetimes, certainly going back to the early thirties.

If you take a look at what has happened in the country, late last year, former President George Bush recognized that the world's credit markets were near a state of total collapse, and he asked this Congress to take unprecedented action in order to try to prevent that. Since that time, we've seen a continued unraveling of financial markets, we've seen a continued unraveling of the housing markets, and we've seen the most spectacular loss of consumer confidence in the modern history of this country. New claims for unemployment insurance last week hit 590,000. In the last 2 months alone, we've seen this country lose more than a million jobs.

Consumer purchasing power has evaporated. New home starts fell 15 percent in December, to the lowest number on record going back more than 50 years. And we've seen other evidence of panic in the marketplace and on Main Street.

Normally, when consumer purchasing power collapses, our government uses the tool of monetary policy in order to try to resurrect and reinflate the economy. The problem is we've already shot that bullet. The Federal Reserve has taken phenomenal actions to try to stabilize the situation to very moderate effect. And now we're being asked to consider the other tool in our arsenal. We're being asked to use fiscal policy to expand consumer purchasing power to try and stop the slide. And that is what this proposal before us here today will try to do.

In most recessions, we're eventually led out of those recessions through the leadership of the housing sector and the automobile sector. This time around, both of those sectors are in shambles, and they're not likely to lead anybody out of anything. So that leaves us with very limited tools.

This package today that we are considering is an $825 billion package that does a variety of things to try to reinflate the economy. It, first of all, provides tax cuts—which Mr. RANGEL will discuss—in order to try to put some money in people's pockets. We hope that that succeeds to a greater extent than the last round of tax rebates did.

Secondly, this package attempts to jump-start job creation through infrastructure investments in roads, bridges, sewers, water repair, modernizing our electric power grid and expanding broadband access so that all parts of the country have an opportunity to compete, with Internet access.

Third, this package attempts to help those who are most impacted by the recession, who are losing their jobs, their health insurance, and losing the ability to send their kids to college.

Fourth, this package attempts to modernize the economy—or at least to begin a long process of doing that—by accelerating the development of new technology through key investments in science and energy.

And last, it attempts, also, to save jobs by stabilizing State and local budgets. Because of the economic collapse and because of the collapse of revenue now forecast at the State and local level, States face the need to eliminate gargantuan deficits because they're required to balance their budgets. Without help from the Federal Government to stabilize their situation, they will be forced to impose

major tax increases and devastating service cutbacks, which under these economic conditions would be hugely counterproductive. This package attempts to do all of those things.

Now, none of us can be certain about the degree of success that would flow from passage of this package.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. OBEY. I yield myself 2 additional minutes.

But the fact is we are as close as we will ever see to being in the same position that Franklin Roosevelt was in in the thirties. And at that time he tried some things; some of the things he tried worked, some of them didn't, and so he moved on and tried other things.

There is no person on this floor who can guarantee the success of this package. Certainly, standing alone, this package will not succeed, because it is going to have to be accompanied by further actions to build confidence in the economy. It is going to have to be accompanied by new actions to prevent massive house foreclosures all across the country. We are going to probably have to have even further intervention in the financial markets of the country. And this package that we have here today, the spending portion of this package, may very well undershoot rather than overshoot the target that many economists have set out for us.

When President Bush came to office, I was divided in my judgment about whether I should support his first major new initiative, which was the No Child Left Behind education package. I had grave misgivings about that package, but in the end I supported it, largely because I thought that, as the incoming President, the President deserves to have the benefit of the doubt. President Obama is in that same situation, only in far more dire straits. He has asked the Congress to pass an economic recovery package, and this bill today is attempting to do that.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. OBEY. I yield myself 1 additional minute.

He has asked us to provide a reasonable balance between tax cuts and spending increases to revive the ability of consumers to purchase the goods and services produced by this society. Unless someone has a clearly better idea, I think we have an obligation to support the President's proposal, at this point as the only game in town. The risks are enormous if we do not move ahead.

Everyone talks, for instance, about how disappointed they are with what the previous Bush administration did with respect to the package on Wall Street. I'm certainly extremely unhappy with some of the actions taken by Secretary Paulson.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. OBEY. I yield myself 1 additional minute.

I believe, nonetheless, that the President was right at the time in telling the Congress that if we did not take action, the results could have been catastrophic. I believe if we do not take action on this package today, the results can be similarly catastrophic. And with that, I urge Members to support the package.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

As we begin today's debate, Mr. Chairman and my colleagues, I'd like to reiterate my willingness and desire to work with President Obama.

Mr. President, each of us wants to see you be successful, and we welcome the opportunity to work with you and your administration. The challenges we face as Americans—not Democrats or Republicans, but Americans—are great. We have much work to do.

Mr. President, it is our sincere hope that we will work together across party lines to restore confidence in our economy and create a climate conducive to job growth. We can no longer afford to point fingers and cast blame. If there was ever a time for our country to come together, it is now.

There is no greater challenge facing working families today than our Nation's struggling economy. Each of us can speak passionately and with great empathy of people we know in our own districts who have lost their jobs, are unable to pay their mortgage, don't have health insurance, or are struggling to make ends meet. They are asking for our help. As we demonstrate our compassion, let us also be mindful of our responsibility to assist those in need without creating an untenable situation for future generations. That is the balance we must strive to achieve.

The centerpiece of any stimulus bill ought to be job creation. Government has a role; but our constituents are not asking for an unlimited expansion of government. They are asking Congress to focus on specific sectors of our economy and to provide solutions that will offer tangible, near-term results.

Most of us would agree that the recent $700 billion Troubled Asset Relief Program, known as TARP, is an illustration of how good intentions don't always deliver desired results. Many Members, I'm sure, would like to have their vote back if they voted for that package.

When Congress spends too much too quickly, it doesn't think through the details and oversight becomes more difficult. The TARP bill is only the most recent example. The lesson learned was this; we cannot manage what we do not measure. We simply cannot afford to make the same mistake again.

Public dismay over the lack of transparency in TARP implies a public desire for more openness and thoughtful consideration of stimulus spending. A Web site is not oversight. Posting $606 billion worth of Federal spending on a Web site does not ensure that these funds will be well spent. Each and every agency should be required to submit a spending plan to Congress—on the front end, not after the fact—to ensure that every dollar is spent as intended. Our constituents, Mr. Chairman and Members, deserve no less.

These taxpayers, who will repay this debt over time, also deserve specific answers before we spend another nickel of their money. They deserve to know how many jobs will be created in 6 months, 12 months, 18 months, or longer. They deserve to know where these jobs will be created, how many of these jobs will be skilled and unskilled positions, and whether these jobs will be sustained through higher taxes or even more government spending down the road. These are thoughtful, reasonable questions deserving a thoughtful and reasonable response.

Many have described this legislation as a transportation and infrastructure investment package. However, the fact remains that only $30 billion, or 3 percent of the funding, is directed towards ''shovel-ready'' road and highway spending. The backlog of these projects is some $64.3 billion. Similarly, $4.5 billion is allocated for the Corps of Engineers for improving flood protection and navigation, when a $61 billion backlog exists for Corps projects that are fully authorized. These are the types of targeted infrastructure investments that will create sustainable jobs and should be given even greater priority within this package.

Many Republicans support wellness programs, analog TV conversion coupons, and the NEA, for example, but these and many other items in this bill don't create jobs and ought to be funded through our regular appropriations process. They do not belong in a stimulus bill.

□ 1700

Nor should a stimulus package be used to establish 32 new government programs at a cost of some $136 billion, which this bill does. Thirty-seven percent of the appropriated dollars in this package, more than $1 out of every $3, is dedicated to creating new government programs.

Are we fostering job creation and economic stimulus, or are we simply growing the size of government? I know my taxpayers are asking. How about yours?

Our opposition to this package is not based on partisan politics but on economic reality. There is tremendous pressure on Congress to maintain funding of existing programs even before we create new ones. Again, let's take off our partisan hats and look at the sobering facts before us.

Congress recently provided $700 billion for TARP. It's now considering $816 billion in this stimulus bill. There is talk of the Senate's adding another $70 billion to address the AMT fix. Congress will next week, consider a $410 billion omnibus spending bill for the

work we didn't finish last year. And before long we will be considering another emergency supplemental spending bill.

Let's be perfectly honest. All these spending bills are placing a tremendous burden of debt on present and future generations. Our projected deficit of 2009 is already approaching $1.2 trillion, the largest in history, even before we consider this stimulus proposal.

So what can be done to make this a better and perhaps even a bipartisan spending bill? Let me offer four suggestions, Mr. Chairman:

First, narrow the focus of this bill to those items that provide measurable economic stimulus or produce jobs. Spending should be targeted to key infrastructure investments that will create jobs over the next 2 years. We don't question the urgency of this package. We question its priorities and its price tag.

Secondly, address public concerns over adequate transparency and accountability by requiring agencies to submit a spending plan before they start spending the money in this package, as we did in the 9/11 package. Such an approach will ensure that every dollar is spent as intended.

Further, I would suggest that this bill should ensure that it captures the full costs associated with waiving cost-sharing requirements and hiring of additional Federal employees. Proper safeguards are needed to prevent the unintentional growth of government over time.

And, lastly, limit the use of the stimulus bill as a vehicle for increasing base funding of popular domestic programs. Large increases in these programs create unrealistic expectations for future spending.

I will conclude my remarks as I began them with a message for our new President:

Mr. President, the challenges we face transcend partisan politics. We have an historic opportunity to work together to craft a stimulus package that Republicans and Democrats can support. We appeal to you to include us in this process. We wish you and your family Godspeed and welcome the opportunity to work with you, Mr. President.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to the rule, I yield 15 minutes to the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. RANGEL; 15 minutes to the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. WAXMAN; 10 minutes to the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, Mr. MILLER; 10 minutes to the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Mr. OBERSTAR; 5 minutes to Ms. GIFFORDS of the Science and Technology Committee; 5 minutes to the chairwoman of the Small Business Committee, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ; 5 minutes to the chairman of the Budget Committee, Mr. SPRATT; and 2 minutes to the chairman of the Government Investigations Committee, Mr. TOWNS.

The CHAIR. Members so designated will control the time mentioned.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 3 minutes.

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. My colleagues, someone once said that when the going gets tough, the tough get going. I think of our great country, knowing that through the Depression, that's just what happened. We came back stronger, more competitive, and became a nation that was respected. I remember so clearly in 1941 they thought America was a loser. We almost lost our entire fleet. But what happened after that? Again America came back stronger as a world power economically and militarily. And now we're in trouble again.

This $275 billion bill brings relief. The Ways and Means Committee is proud to bring this to you for your consideration. It doesn't help our banks. It doesn't help our fiscal institutions. They don't cry. But those of us who go back home know who's doing the crying: those people who work hard every day, and yet they're losing their jobs, they're losing their dignity, they're losing their homes, they can't put food on the table.

There is only one way to do it, and that is to be equitable and to make certain that we have a decent and fair response to their tax relief, and that's what we intend to do.

We provide $144 million to people who work every day to put food on the table, to be able to get clothes for their children. And the reason they don't have confidence is because they don't have money, and we provide that for them. For families that are low income that have children, we try to provide something not only for those people who don't have tax liability immediately but to relieve them of that payroll tax, because at the end of the day, it's what you take home and not what you call it.

For working families we have the earned income tax credit. And we tried desperately hard to make certain that for those people who have lost their jobs that they not lose their dignity, they not lose their health insurance, and that they be able to get education and retraining.

For small businesses, unless we have the people who are working that have resources to be able to buy, we try to help our small businesses by giving them an easy opportunity to depreciate and to buy equipment and not to have to lay off.

And one of the most important parts of our bill is something that they'll never be able to take away from our great country, and that is education and technology training. So we can come back stronger. We can come back notwithstanding what's happening here. And I can't see anybody in this House going back home saying we didn't do enough because for those that are out there feeling the pain of what we're going through, they are just waiting for relief to be coming. And our President has promised this, our leadership has promised this, and this is the time for the Congress to be a part of that.

The health information technology is not only going to save lives, it's going to be able to say at the end of the day that we moved forward to make our country healthier, better educated, knowing more about technology. And once we do that, when people ask how are you going to pay back the money, you don't pay it as a sick Nation. You pay it back as an educated, healthy Nation that restored the dignity and prosperity that we know. And so we find Members will have ribbons on, and I refer you to the RECORD to know more about the bill.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the original chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee of Appropriations, the gentleman from Kentucky, HAL ROGERS.

(Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Chairman, there is no question but that the Congress must act swiftly and boldly to counteract the downturn in the economy. But there's a difference between actions that are swift and bold and spending huge sums of borrowed money irresponsibly.

When the dust finally settles on this boondoggle, perhaps then we will face the facts regarding this colossal trillion dollar spending bill. And the fact is that the Pelosi-Obey bill isn't an economic stimulus plan at all, but a rampant spending spree, much of which has nothing to do with bailing out a sagging economy, but with a liberal litany of left-leaning, big government programs.

We need a true stimulus bill. That much we can all agree on. But it needs to be aimed directly at creating jobs. It needs to give real incentives to small businesses, which create three out of four new jobs in the country. It needs to have a strict oversight program, given the recent TARP fiasco. And it needs to solely focus on stimulating the economy, not a mandate to overspend on a broad range of government programs.

First, this bill is not aimed directly at job creation. According to the Congressional Budget Office, a nonpartisan office, only 40 percent of the discretionary funds in this bill will actually stimulate the economy and create jobs by 2010. Economists all across the Nation question the wisdom of the U.S. Government's competing for debt financing, when our small businesses are

struggling to refinance their own debt. How does squeezing out our small business owners help create jobs in this troubled economy?

Editorial boards across the country are questioning the spending priorities that have needlessly crept into this bill: $50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, $200 million for tree trimming and sod planting on the National Mall, $150 million for Smithsonian facility upgrades, $16 billion in Pell grants for college students.

To quote The Washington Post, which I rarely do: ''All of those ideas may have merit, but why do they belong in an emergency measure aimed to kick-start the economy?''

If the majority wants to debate funding for the arts, let's do it in the annual Interior Appropriations bill. If the majority wants to increase Pell grant funding, bring it up through the annual education spending bill that's coming up shortly. And if you want to go out and borrow another $825 billion from your children in the name of saving the economy, we should demand that it be spent producing jobs for Americans.

The true drivers of this economy, the small business owners, are literally left out in the cold. While we're planting sod and cleaning up trash on the National Mall to the tune of $200 million, we are only allocating a fraction of that amount to our small business owners across the Nation in the form of tax breaks. It's not hard to see where the true priorities lie with this majority.

Second, who knows where this money will go? The bill fails to demand a full accounting of the funds before they are allocated. Last week's disapproval vote of more TARP funds would make you think that we'd learned a thing or two about writing a blank check to the administration without seeing how they intend to spend it. But apparently we haven't.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. When the Appropriations Committee considered this legislation last week, the minority put forth several thoughtful, fiscally-responsible proposals to prioritize infrastructure investment and demand greater accountability, all denied on a party-line vote.

I proposed an amendment that withheld a portion of these funds until a simple spending plan was submitted to Congress, a plan requiring expenditure details, all rejected. It's a sad day when the majority won't even allow the formulation of a plan before spending bonanzas begin.

Mr. Chairman, this bill should be about encouraging our small businesses to create jobs and providing the proper oversight and accountability that working families deserve. Unfortunately, this bill fails miserably on both counts.

If money is no object, if success is not your goal, if accountability is not important to you, vote for this bill. But I urge Members to oppose this bill and support a bill that actually creates jobs and demands accountability for the taxpayers.

□ 1715

Mr. RANGEL. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT), who will share with you our concern about people who have lost their jobs.

(Mr. MCDERMOTT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Chairman, every day and every corner of this Nation, and every sector of this economy, the casualties keep mounting. Seventy-five thousand people lost their jobs yesterday, at Alcoa, Boeing, Caterpillar, Home Depot, Intel, Microsoft, Pfizer, Sprint, Texas Instruments and many small businesses. Over 11 million Americans have already lost their jobs, the highest level in 25 years, and every major economist says it's going to get worse before it gets better.

Behind every number is a personal story of an American family struggling to cope with and survive this economic crisis. Behind every story is an American who deserves our help, who has earned our help on the job and has every right to expect Congress to act with all deliberate speed. We must not let them down.

Helping these Americans while they look for work is not only the right thing to do for them, it is the only thing we can do in our economy. Unemployment insurance is one of the most effective forms of economic stimulus, because jobless Americans have little choice but to spend the money that's given them.

Every unemployment insurance dollar spent returns an economic impact of $1.64. That's the kind of significant return on investment that will help America restart its economic engine. This recovery engine responds to rising unemployment with a historic level of assistance. It provides $27 billion for a program of extended benefits. For the first time ever, this legislation provides financial incentives for States to modernize their unemployment insurance programs and increase access to benefits.

For the first time ever, this legislation provides a Federal supplement to increase unemployment benefits by an extra $100 a month for the next year, and, again for the first time, we will provide assistance to unemployed workers who are trying to afford health care coverage. The primary goal of this legislation is to create jobs, but we must also help the unemployed as those jobs are being created, and this measure does just that. By voting for this bill, we are standing up for the American people and standing alongside the American people right where we belong.

I urge support for this critically important legislation.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF), a member of the committee.

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Chairman, I think this bill really ignores the major issue that we are really facing. Our Nation is fundamentally broke, but we have $57 trillion of unfunded obligations. The Ways and Means Committee, with all due respect, is doing nothing about dealing with this issue.

I have a bill in with JIM COOPER and Senator CONRAD, Senators CONRAD and GREGG have it over on the Senate side, that creates a bipartisan commission similar to what we did on the Iraq Study Group with every spending program, including Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security and tax policy. Some on my side won't like that, a tax policy on the table, and we give the commission 1 year to go around the country holding public hearings, coming up with a proposal to require, to require this institution that has fundamentally failed to do its responsibility.

Now, China holds a large portion of our debt. People talk about it, but yet nobody does anything about it. If the Chair of the Ways and Means Committee gets on the train in Washington and takes it to New York City and looks to the right and to the left, the factories are in decay. There is graffiti all over the walls, the windows are broken. You come through my old neighborhood in Philadelphia, and it's in decay.

By doing this, by getting control of our spending in a way that would honestly do it in a bipartisan way, I would tell the Chair of the committee, we would bring about a renaissance in this Nation whereby we would have the ability to invest in Alzheimer's research and autism research and cancer research and manufacturing to create new jobs that really show that America is back. So I think the failure of this bill is that this provision is not in it.

The last issue is, I call it the father amendment or the mother amendment or the grandmother/grandmother amendment, all of us at some time are going to get an opportunity, and we are going to leave here. And our grandkids are going to say, you know, Dad, when you were there, or Mom, when you were there, or Grandpop, when you were there, or Grandmom, when you were there, did you know that China was buying our debt up? Did you know the Saudis were buying our debt up? Did you really know, Grandfather or Grandmother, that our factories were in decay? Did you know that they controlled our debt? Did you? Did you, Pop? Pop, did you do anything about it? Dad, did you do anything about it?

And the answer is, as of now, this Congress, and let me just say, both political parties, have fundamentally

failed. So you are going to have to tell your kids and your grandkids, no.

When I was there, as of January of 2009, we did nothing, and we allowed our country to fall into decline. This amendment ought to be, it ought to be in the Republican substitute, and it's not, and I voted against the Republican substitute. It ought to be in this, and it's not, and I voted against this. And if this does not pass, Barack Obama will preside over the decline of this Nation when he is running for reelection as President of this Nation in 4 years.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), who is going to share with us his dreams about a country that is not dependent on fossil fuel.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Thank you. I appreciate the gentleman's recognition. I appreciate Mr. LEVIN's courtesy.

I have been listening to our friends on the other side of the aisle. These are the architects of the Bush economic meltdown, who have given him billions and billions and billions of borrowed dollars, blank checks, to the last administration. All of a sudden, they are fiscally interested.

Well, let me just say, we just left a Budget Committee meeting where we had five brilliant respected Ph.D.s from all across the spectrum who said we are on uncharted water, you should err on the side of a larger stimulus, not a smaller, and that one of the most important areas deals with energy.

I am proud that we have taken these provisions that we have been dancing around for the last 3 or 4 years and playing Russian roulette with where the private sector couldn't invest in them. It was on again, off again. Now we have made them certain and indefinite. We have encouraged these investments by increasing the level and giving them a longer period of time to cope with them.

I think all of us ought to embrace this. These are provisions that are investing in our energy future. They are going to create jobs, they are going to fight global warming, and they are going to help us in the international arena.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON), a member of the committee.

Mr. KINGSTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I was in a meeting today with the Republican Party and President Obama, and we pledged to work with him to turn this economy around, and we feel very serious about working with the President on a bipartisan basis.

But as we look at the stimulus package, I don't think this is quite what he had in mind. Only 7 percent of the appropriation goes to shovel-ready projects, only 13 percent in general goes to public works-type projects. At that rate it spends $275,000 per job, and the household income for America is about $50,000. This is not bold enough in terms of job creation for the targeted 3 to 4 million jobs.

The second part is this bill creates 32 brand new Federal programs at a cost of $136 billion, new spending, and yet we didn't have hearings on all of these new programs.

Then it has extension of some spending that we already have, millions of dollars for contraceptives, $50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, $200 million for grass resodding on The Mall. In fact, for every $1 in small business tax relief, this bill gives $4 to resod The National Mall, and $600 million to prepare the country for universal health care.

And then, as Mr. WOLF said, we are going to talk about the debt. Our Nation is $10.6 trillion in debt.

Now, the worst Republican deficit was $412 billion. The Democrats this quarter will exceed $1 trillion in deficit spending and, as Mr. WALZ said, we owe $3 trillion to other countries, led by China.

I sit on the Agriculture Committee. We have about $26 billion in the Agriculture portion of this bill, but only $1.7 billion is spent on public works, things that will create jobs. The rest of it is traditional left-wing spending, expansion of the Food Stamp Program, even though food stamps has an automatic enrollment, and it also has an automatic inflation guard. But we are increasing food stamps.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LEWIS of California. I yield the gentleman 30 additional seconds.

Mr. KINGSTON. This changes our $400 million loan program to extend broadband, changes it to a $2.8 billion grant program, thus creating one of the largest corporate welfare elements that's out there—and I don't know how that creates jobs—and $23 million for the Inspector General for audits, and how does that create jobs. There are better ways.

We should reduce unfunded mandates, we should increase the public works, we should have more tax cuts for small business, we should implement the SAFE Act, and we should reward responsible behavior.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR. All Members are advised not to traffic in the well when a Member is under recognition, as a matter of courtesy.

Mr. OBEY. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS).

Mr. KINGSTON. I want to say I apologize.

Mr. DICKS. Well, I accept the gentleman's apology, but he was inaccurate on what he said. That is something I cannot forgive him for.

Out of the $200 million for The Mall, $150 million is to save the Jefferson Monument from sinking, sinking, into the Tidal Basin. Only part of the money is used to resod the grass, and, there is money also to protect and restore the Sylvan Theater as well.

There is a national group that has organized to restore The National Mall. We just saw $1.8 million Americans come and stand on that Mall. It is a national treasure. It is part of the Park Service. It deserves to be fixed.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the chairman of our committee, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN).

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, there is no greater challenge facing our families and businesses today with our Nation's struggling economy. The past few months have been absolutely traumatic for many. There is genuine anxiety and fear about job security, loss of savings, a serious drop in home values and the decline of the value of personal investments.

As a result, consumer confidence is at historic lows. Quite correctly, Americans are asking for help. We must respond by passing an economic package as quickly as possible. However, we must make sure that that response is effective, efficient and timely.

Unfortunately, the bill the majority has placed before us today does not meet those common-sense standards. Clearly, many Americans find themselves in real trouble and in need of relief. Provisions of this bill, such as the extended unemployment benefits, nutrition assistance and job training are critically important to help many Americans struggle through hard times. However, they have little to do with creating 3 to 4 million jobs.

However, there is a significant role for government to play in the targeted infrastructure, investment, roads, tunnels, bridges, sewers, flood control.

□ 1730

As Mr. LEWIS said earlier, many of the majority have described this legislation as a transportation and infrastructure investment package. However, only $30 billion of that, or 3 percent of the funding, is directed towards shovel-ready road and highway spending that would immediately create jobs. And there's a $61 billion backlog in Army Corps projects that could be addressed immediately.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, less than half the spending in this stimulus package will be paid out in the next 2 years. At that rate, an economic recovery will probably outrun most of that spending.

This should worry all Americans. This isn't just a stimulus package; it is legislation jam packed with a lot of domestic spending, even if there's no evidence that that spending will create jobs or prevent layoffs.

I note that the majority proposes a $79 billion State stabilization fund. Apparently, this program is designed to bail out some—I repeat—some States that did little to control their own spending and bonded indebtedness in recent years.

Take my own State of New Jersey as an example. In the last 6 years, New Jersey State spending has increased by

$11 billion, and our State's debt has more than doubled to $36 billion. Clearly, this is not a picture of restraint. Add to that picture some of the highest taxes in income taxes in the Nation.

In other words, while the Federal budget deficit has exploded, Federal taxpayers are now supposed to pull some State governments out of a fiscal hole that was partially of their own making.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute. Mr. Chairman, if we are going to quote CBO, we ought to quote CBO accurately. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office has said that, in their estimate, 65 percent of the money in this bill will be spent in the next 2 years. The administration's estimate is 75 percent.

I would point out CBO also says that over the next 2 years this bill will inject $526 billion into the economy, and they state that the implementation of this bill ''would have a noticeable impact on economic growth and employment in the next few years.'' That is a whole lot better than doing nothing.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to a member of the committee, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT).

Mr. TIAHRT. I thank the gentleman from California.

Mr. Chairman, there is no argument that our economy is on a downhill slide. Chairman OBEY conveyed that very well in his opening remarks. But there is an argument on how we get out of this economic slide downwards.

The bill before us is based on the philosophy that government spending will stir the economy. It will not. Historically, we know that bailouts and government spending simply don't work.

During the Great Depression, high Federal spending did not save our economy. Instead, it remained stagnant. World War II built the industrial base. And it was in the 1950s, with the private sector, that drove us to a number one economy in the world.

In the 1990s, Japan tried to stimulate their economy with the bailout of banks and with federal government spending. They borrowed the equivalent of $250 billion and spent it. What happened? Their economy remained stagnant, and their average per capita income went from second in the world to tenth in the world.

This bill has the same idea that failed in the 1930s and failed in Japan: borrowed money, Federal spending. But there is a better plan. Let's get the money directly to working Americans.

Let's cancel the unauthorized and new programs and new spending in this bill and return it in the form of waived payroll taxes for working Americans. Give them a vacation from payroll taxes. It will be like a 10 percent pay raise.

We all know what they will do with it. They will do one of three things. They will either save it, which helps the banks recapitalize and creates mortgages and home sales; or they will spend it, which creates a demand for goods and a demand for more jobs; or they will invest it, which means companies can expand their businesses and hire more employees.

All we have to do is exchange the unauthorized new government spending and transfer that money back to hard-working Americans who earn the money. A very simple concept that will have a direct stimulation to our economy. And it will happen this year. We will not be waiting until 2010 or 2011 or 2012 or 2013. It will happen this year.

So let's cancel those new unauthorized programs and give back the taxes to working Americans and get the economy rolling.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

(Mr. LEVIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEVIN. Well, the opponents of this bill say there is a dramatic set of conditions that are new, but they have too narrow a focus, and they are singing the same old song, and we just heard it.

There are crises of confidence in this country, and this bill addresses it. There's a crisis of confidence in jobs. This bill addresses the need for jobs and for those who lose them. Families are worried about the education of their kids, and they wonder whether the government will respond. This bill provides, I think, $140 billion to make sure that the education of the kids in this country will continue.

Families are worried about whether health care will continue. This bill provides dramatic new provisions for health care for 8 million families, at least, in this country.

Vote for this bill.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to a member of this committee, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM).

Mr. LATHAM. I thank the ranking member.

Mr. Chairman, we all know that we are in unprecedented economic times that call for unprecedented action. The bill we have under consideration is certainly unprecedented because of the size itself. $825 billion. That is just for now, without the add-ons we expect over in the Senate.

This measure will have an unprecedented impact on the deficit by increasing it by hundreds of billions of dollars over the next few years. In turn, this dramatic rise will trigger large-scale borrowing from the future incomes of our children and our grandchildren.

These add-on deficits will cause the Nation's debt to soar to a level at which we will owe interest payments of more than $750 billion per year by the year 2019, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Those numbers assume that the stimulus package actually works—and we don't know for certain that it will work.

I raise these points because with spending numbers this high, we need to get it right. While there are certainly some good qualities to this bill, there are also numerous elements thus far, including spendout rates noted by CBO, that raise questions about the stimulus impact of the bill. Currently, there are estimates on the job creation potential of the bill that show only about 10 percent of the funds creating jobs. If those estimates are accurate, the question arises as to where the other funds are going.

Some analyses show that the lion's share of the monies in this bill are destined for expansion of an assortment of government programs that have nothing to do with economic stimulus. Moreover, these programs are ones that are funded each year through the normal appropriations process, and will be funded again in 2010.

That tells me that we are using this bill to expand the funding scope of certain programs in order to make room for additional spending in the 2010 cycle. We are calling this extra spending ''emergency'' spending so we will not have to find a way to pay for it. Whether we call it emergency, or something else, the deficit effect is still the same, and our children will pay for it.

Many of these programs already have large, unexpended balances. For example, there's $5 billion for public housing. Yet, we have close to $7 billion in unexpended public housing balances.

Many of the proponents of this bill talk of the need to rebuild the Nation's highway and bridge infrastructure, and speak of the job creation potential of these activities. Yet, the highway portion of this bill contains less than 4 percent of the total funding.

I am very supportive of legitimate stimulus that results in net economic activity and job creation. For that reason, I offered an amendment in the full committee designed to ensure that all stimulus funds would produce net economic activity and not supplant existing funds. I also cosponsored an amendment with Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN that would have moved some $60 billion to transportation, flood control, and environmental restoration projects.

Ladies and gentlemen, our children and grandchildren are going to pay for this debt.

Mr. OBEY. I yield myself 15 seconds. My friend from Iowa says that this bill is too big. I will make a deal with him. I will be happy to give him a smaller bill if he will show me a smaller problem.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Speaking of smaller problems, I might mention I had hoped that the chairman put that Jefferson Memorial problem in the 2009 bill, which is yet to be passed, through the whole process.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. EMERSON.)

Mrs. EMERSON. Let me say how pleased I am to be the ranking member of the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee for the

111th Congress and look forward to working cooperatively with Chairman SERRANO.

Regarding the Financial Services section of the recovery bill we are debating today, I am disappointed that neither I nor the minority's committee staff were given an opportunity to consult with the majority members or staff before the bill was produced and unveiled on the Internet.

One percent. One percent sound like a small amount but in this bill even one-tenth of 1 percent is not trivial. Here's an example. This bill includes $7.7 billion for the GSA to build and renovate new Federal buildings and ports of entry. It's nearly 1 percent of the bill. However, in fiscal year 2008, GSA received a total appropriation of only $1.4 billion for construction and renovations.

Now, most of us know from personal experience that GSA construction projects in our districts are hardly ever completed on time, and never under budget. At its highest levels, this is an agency that needs a wake-up call and a good scrubbing behind the ears. What it does not need is 5½ years' worth of annual budget appropriations to spend in 120 days, a task it most certainly cannot accomplish with any semblance of efficiency.

GSA lacks the contracting, program management and building engineering expertise to go from $1.4 billion in appropriations to $7.7 billion in just 1 year. Giving GSA the keys to nearly 1 percent of the stimulus package will result in gross mismanagement and future funding liabilities.

Additionally, according to lists provided by GSA of the projects they list that can be awarded within 120 days, 36 percent, or $2 billion, are in Washington, DC. In a bill for the economic health of our entire Nation, Washington is surely getting the lion's share.

I am also concerned with $600 million in the bill for the purchase of vehicles for Federal agencies. The bill states that these are to be primarily alternative fuel and plug-in hybrid vehicles, technologies I greatly support. However, there's currently no U.S. production for plug-in vehicles, and they won't be here until after the deadline of this bill has passed.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. LEWIS of California. I yield the gentlelady 30 additional seconds.

Mrs. EMERSON. Additionally, the lack of fueling stations for these vehicles could produce a fleet of cars and trucks in this country that could create new obstacles for Federal agencies. Even David Brooks of the New York Times noted that concerns such as this one ''were cast aside with bland reassurances'' in our committee markup of this bill.

Mr. Chair, this is neither what we should be doing with the taxpayers' money, nor how we should be doing it.

Mr. RANGEL. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT).

Mr. DOGGETT. One way this bill promotes economic recovery is by promoting educational opportunity. $13½ billion of targeted tax relief to help young people and not so young people attend college. Today, one out of five graduating high school students does not qualify for this assistance. But, because we provided a refundable tax credit, we help them, just as the appropriations section of this bill helps with expanded Pell Grants and other direct aid.

For one of these, Brad Burnett at Austin Community College, he says, ''Getting a college education means breaking a generations' long cycle of poverty within my family that lets me fulfill the American dream.''

For the first time, we cover textbooks and instructional materials under this bill. As we provide this individual opportunity, we upgrade the skills of our workforce and help climb out of this economic recession. For students, this is a bill that provides hope we can believe in. And for every one of these students who uses the opportunities in this bill, it can provide a diploma that they can count on.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. SIMPSON).

Mr. SIMPSON. I thank the ranking member for the time. Everyone on this floor agrees that something needs to be done in terms of stimulating this economy. We all know that we are in difficult times. I also agree with Speaker PELOSI that any stimulus plan needs to be timely, temporary, and targeted.

It is timely. We need to do something. We know we need to do it quickly. Targeted. This would be targeted if your weapon was a scatter gun, because everything but the kitchen sink has been thrown into this appropriation bill.

□ 1745

Temporary? It would take a stretch of the imagination to believe that this was temporary.

Today, President Obama came and spoke with us. He said that he didn't want programs started that had what he called ''a long tail,'' and that meant that it contributed to the long-term deficit of this country and that they were going to have to cut in later years.

I will tell you that there is nothing as eternal on this earth as a temporary government program. We all know that. I give you one example, school construction. We are going to start a school construction program. It has never been authorized before, but we are going to start one here. Does anybody really believe that we will then end it after 3 or 4 or 5 years whenever this slowdown in our economy turns around? It will be going on forever. We all know that.

We have a number of programs that have never been debated; I can't remember the exact number, something like 32 new authorizations, that have never been debated in committee. They may be appropriate, I don't know, but we have never debated them to see if they should be authorized and whether they can compete against other programs for the limited amount of money. Well, the unlimited amount of money we apparently have in this bill.

In other cases, the spend-out is 3 or 4 or 5 years down the road. And I would ask you, why are we appropriating money for a program that will spend out money in 4 or 5 years down the road when we all hope that this economy has turned around? But yet, we are appropriating money now for that spend-out. It just doesn't make sense.

Why don't we go through the regular appropriation process to do that? I will give you one example dealing with the National Mall that we have talked about here today.

The Tidal Basin work alone has had huge swings in cost estimates for the very complicated and extensive work. In late December, the Park Service told the subcommittee that the Mall work alone could cost $600 million, and now that number is $20 million. In late December, the Park Service Budget Office told the subcommittee staff that they could use only $15 million to $20 million for planning and design the next 2 years, which seemed honest and logical given the size of the plan. Now, they claim they can spend over $200 million over the next 2 years.

Our problem is that these things should be going through the regular appropriation process, and they are not. And there is a reason that they are not: It is because every idea that anyone has ever had for spending that they think is appropriate has been thrown into this bill to avoid the PAYGO rules. We all know that is the case, and we need to redo this bill and target it.

Mr. RANGEL. At this time I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON), who will share his idea of a new America.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Chairman, the green stimulus provisions in this bill will generate tens of thousands of jobs and result in billions of dollars in economic investment.

Solar tax provisions that I authored will allow State and local governments, like Sonoma County in my district, to help homeowners and businesses more easily finance the purchase of solar. We are also making other critical investments in solar by creating a grant program to incentivize businesses to invest in renewable technology today, instead of waiting until the economy improves. An additional $4 billion in bonds for use in renewable energy projects will be available for State and local governments as well.

These are just a few of the green stimulus provisions. Not only will this bill create green jobs that our economy needs today, but it will also enhance the long-term security and sustainability of our economy by investing in a smart-energy future that helps free us from our dependency on foreign oil.

I encourage everyone to vote ''aye'' on this bill.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW).

Mr. CRENSHAW. I thank the gentleman for yielding the time.

Let me say that a lot of people I hear say they want to oppose this package because you really can't spend your way out of a recession; and, therefore, if spending is the only answer, then why not spend twice as much and get out of the problem twice as fast? But those same people think that maybe you shouldn't do anything, and I think they are just as wrong, to stand here and do nothing in the midst of this tremendous economic crisis.

But I do think we have to put a test to anything we try to do. It was pointed out earlier, and I have heard a lot of discussion: If you are going to have a stimulus package, it ought to meet certain criteria. It ought to be focused, targeted, if you will; it ought to be timely in the sense that it ought to begin to act immediately; and it ought not to last forever. And it seems to me, when I look at those three criteria, this package fails on all three counts. It is not focused. It is not targeted. It seems to be a hodgepodge, just kind of quickly thrown together, 152 different appropriations. No strategic vision involved, no underlying theme, just a little bit of spending on everything you wanted to spend money on but were afraid to ask, until now. And it, I think clearly, in so many cases doesn't pretend to be timely. When you do research, when you do student special education, how does that quickly kickstart the economy? It fails that test. And, finally, if we badly design a package like this, it will continue on, and the $1.2 trillion deficit becomes $2 trillion.

So I think there is a better way, and I think the Republicans have put forward that; because if we go through with a poorly, badly designed stimulus package, we are going to end up, in the words of Tennessee Ernie Ford, his old song, when he said we will just end up ''another day older and deeper in debt.'' So I think there is a better way.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield 1 minute to my friend from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Many of us in this body, including myself, have been speaking about the perfect storm developing in this economy before 9/11. The truth is, we should have taken this aggressive action years ago. Today, we have finally constructed legislation which directly invests in the good people of America.

Through middle-class tax cuts, direct aid to State and local governments, and reinvestment in renewable energy, Congress is taking an affirmative step to enable economic recovery.

Mr. Chairman, just think of how municipalities will be able to take advantage of tax exempt bonds and tax credit bonds, and I speak as a former mayor, in depressed areas throughout the United States to provide municipalities with the wherewithal to really, really move this economy and provide jobs to our American people.

To ensure our children can compete and succeed in the troubling economy, we will renovate and modernize 10,000 schools. Who said it didn't work back in the thirties? Who said it?

Through this bill we also make college affordable and provide a $2,500 college tax credit to 4 million students, and triple the number of fellowships in science to help spur the next generation of innovation.

This legislation invests American tax dollars in real infrastructure projects that are ready to go. Specifically, this plan allocates money for the repairing and modernizing of thousands of miles of America's roadways and providing new mass transit options for millions of Americans.

I want to commend my colleagues for their leadership and commitment to taking an explicit and aggressive lead in the creation of a comprehensive economic recovery and reinvestment package.

I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to take swift and decisive action to pass this legislation.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK).

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, with this measure the new administration seems bound and determined to continue the failed policy of the past administration. It proves what I like to call McClintock's Second Law of Political Physics, which is, the more we spend on our mistakes, the less willing we are to admit them.

This policy has failed every time and every place it has been tried for a simple reason: Government cannot inject a single dollar into the economy that it has not first taken out of the same economy.

If I take a dollar from Peter and give it to Paul, it is true that Paul now has an extra dollar to spend; and, when he spends it, that dollar is going to ripple through the economy. The gentleman is correct. But the gentleman forgets that Peter now has one less dollar to spend in that same economy. In short, it nets to zero. In fact, it nets to less than zero, because we are shifting enormous resources away from investments that would be based on economic calculations in favor of investments that are being made on political ones.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN).

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I thank the chairman, and rise in strong support of this legislation because of the boost it will provide to our ailing economy and the priority investments it makes in our Nation. To struggling families and communities around the country, with the passage of this bill we can say help is on the way.

We have heard from economists from all sides of the political spectrum, and they all agree inaction and doing nothing is not an option. We need to join together with our new President, President Obama, and act boldly and decisively, and that is what this legislation does, by directing $825 billion in stimulus where it is needed most, ready-to-go projects to put people back to work, investing in clean energy and the infrastructure we need for the 21st century, and middle-class tax relief for struggling American families so they have a little more breathing room in their budgets.

I am especially pleased with the provisions relating to energy efficiency and renewable energy that we have worked on, on a bipartisan basis, loan guarantees for renewable energy projects that are sidelined because of the credit crunch, and new authority for homeowners to retrofit their homes.

I urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I have a question for my Democratic colleagues: How would $50 million for the National Endowment of the Arts possibly stimulate our economy? It won't. And the thing is that this whole bill is actually a steamroller of socialism that is being forced down our throats, and the economy is going to choke to death on this steamroller of socialism that you all are bringing forward.

It is a nonstimulus bill. It is not going to stimulate the economy. It is going to create very few jobs, if any at all. For every dollar of tax relief, you all are going to spend $4 to put new grass on the Washington Mall. It is insane. It is absolutely insane the things that are in this bill.

I am going to vote ''no,'' and I encourage my colleagues to vote ''no,'' and I encourage the American people to stand up and say we are not going to tolerate this kind of stuff going on in this country.

We have got to slow down. We have got to look at alternatives that really will stimulate the economy, that is by reducing taxes and leaving dollars in the hands of the American public.

Mr. RANGEL. I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY), a hardworking member of the committee.

Ms. BERKLEY. I thank the chairman for yielding.

I grew up in my congressional district of Las Vegas. By any standard of measure, it has been a boomtown; record increases in population, almost no unemployment, record home ownership.

What a difference an economic meltdown can make. Nevada's economy, fueled by construction and tourism, has suffered beyond all imagination in this financial crisis. Las Vegas has the highest mortgage foreclosure rate in

the Nation, drastic drops in home values, and thousands of construction workers are without work. Casino workers, the backbone of our economy, laid off. The number of visitors flying to Las Vegas dropped 8 percent this past year, the largest drop in 25 years. My State needs help, and we need it now.

This bill will create or save millions of jobs over the next 2 years. In my district, thousands of construction workers will be put back to work improving roads and highways, building renewable energy facilities, improving aging school buildings and other infrastructure. The bill will also provide for extended unemployment benefits for the over 9 percent of my workforce out of work.

The bill will also provide extended unemployment benefits for the 9 percent of the workforce out of work and provide needed money for medicaid to provide health care to the neediest among us.

Ninety-five percent of our fellow citizens will get a tax cut.

Nevada and our country need the jobs and other support provided by this bill. I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 1.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING).

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, it is a sad day for the United States Congress. People are hurting throughout this entire economy. And instead of bringing a bill that would stimulate our economy, what we see before us is a bill that will simply stimulate big government.

You know, most Americans, Mr. Chairman, believe that the reason that we are in the problem economy that we have is because as a Nation we borrowed and spent too much. And, instead, we have a bill theoretically to solve our problem that borrows and spends too much. You cannot borrow and spend your way into prosperity.

Now, Mr. Chairman, if we were all Keynesians, and I assure you I am not, but if we were, all government spending is not created equal. The Keynesians would tell you. You look at this bill, 4 percent of this is spent on what most economists would call infrastructure, our roads and bridges.

We need tax relief for small businesses. We need tax relief for American families. And we need to do it in a way that doesn't send the bill to future generations. The tax relief for small businesses is as miniscule, less than 2 percent.

□ 1800

Instead, what we have is over half of this bill is to inflate big government. We have $50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, $726 million for an after-school snack program, office furniture for the Public Health Service, $1 billion for the Census.

Mr. Chairman, the list goes on and on and on. And what we have is a bill that when you add the debt service is $1.2 trillion.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Chairman, I would like to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), a new member of the committee, but a seasoned legislator.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I want to thank the chairman for yielding.

I rise in strong support of this legislation, and I do so because it appears to me that it's actually tailor-made for my district and tailor-made for areas throughout the country. Most impressive about it for me is the fact that it provides the assistance to those at the very bottom of the socioeconomic scale, dislocated workers, individuals who have lost their jobs and individuals who are unemployed, money to assist States with their Medicaid deals, individuals who without it wouldn't know where to turn, wouldn't know what to do. It's interesting to hear about great giveaways. But do you know that what is a giveaway for some is a need for others?

There has never been more need for this legislation than right now. I commend Chairman RANGEL and all of the other chairpersons who have worked on it. It's a great piece of legislation. I will proudly vote for it.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New York has 2 minutes remaining. The gentleman from California has 64½ minutes remaining.

Mr. LEWIS of California. I will be yielding time, Mr. Chairman, to others, so I will reserve my time for now.

Mr. RANGEL. I would like to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. NYE), and commend him for his hard work to expand the work opportunity to encourage business to hire our beloved veterans.

Mr. NYE. I thank the chairman for his leadership and for giving me the opportunity to work with him to make sure that our veterans and our small businesses are included in this economic recovery package.

Mr. Chairman, helping businesses hire veterans makes good economic sense. That is why I strongly support the provision of this bill that would give substantial tax credits to businesses that hire unemployed veterans.

This proposal will reduce taxes for small businesses. It will bring more highly-trained workers into the workforce. And perhaps most importantly, it will help us keep faith with the men and women who have served our country in uniform.

In my home district, the Second District of Virginia, we're home to the largest population of military personnel and veterans in the country. And as the people of Hampton Roads can tell you, an investment in our veterans and small businesses is a responsible investment in our economy and a wise investment for our future.

I thank Chairman RANGEL for his leadership. I know he shares my commitment to standing up for all of our veterans, and I look forward to working with him on this issue as we continue to rebuild our economy.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, in order to ask a question, let me yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING).

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentleman. I listened to the gentleman from Virginia carefully, and I'm curious. I would be happy to yield time to him.

When he talks about provisions that make economic sense, could he explain how $50 million to the National Endowment for the Arts makes economic sense for his congressional district? I would be happy to yield to the gentleman.

Mr. OBEY. I would be happy to respond to that if the gentleman wants to yield to me.

Mr. HENSARLING. The gentleman from Virginia was the one who spoke. So I'm happy to yield time to him. I see the gentleman is not interested in answering the question.

Mr. OBEY. I will be happy to respond to the gentleman if he wants, since I am responsible for the money in the bill.

Mr. HENSARLING. Well, I appreciate the offer of the chairman. But I have plenty of opportunities to speak with him.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New York has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. RANGEL. Well, this could be one of the roughest times our great Nation has faced economically, but I think that history is going to recall this as one of the proudest moments that our Congress would be involved in. No, we're not taking care of banks or fiscal institutions or those who buy the jets. But we are taking care of our middle class. That is the heart of America. That is what pumps our economy. And that is why we're trying to help them by expanding their disposable income, helping the working families with kids, helping our veterans who are unemployed, bringing some relief to those who feel the pain yet are looking toward the future for new economies to make this a greener America, getting involved in high tech and helping people out with health.

In the final analysis, besides the flag, what makes us so great is that this country is going to be healthy, educated and competitive. And at the end of the day, it will be recalled that, yes, we got hit hard economically, but the strong middle class and this United States House of Representatives came forward, and we saved our country and we saved our economy.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER).

Mr. LINDER. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, we have all heard the proverb that if you give a man a fish, he can eat for a day. If you teach him to fish, he can eat for a lifetime. This bill is full of fish going to deserving people to eat for 1 day. There is nothing in here for fishing rods. There is nothing in here for training.

To get out of the slump, we need to get people who are unemployed employed in real jobs with real companies. We have the second highest tax on corporations in the world. Lowering that tax burden would help get people hired. To hire people, most of whom will be hired by small businesses, the owner of that business needs a predictable future. This gives him none of that.

The other side is very proud to say that 95 percent are going to get a tax cut. But that tax cut means a refundable tax credit for people who do not pay taxes. Today, 15 million people get their income tax rebated plus a payroll tax plus more from the taxpayer.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) is now controlling 15 minutes.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Members of Congress and those who are watching our deliberations today, this is an important bill. We have 7 percent of the country unemployed, and that number is going up. So in this legislation, we are trying to put funds to help people get jobs and move our economy to a stronger position.

The Committee on Energy and Commerce has three important areas where we have made a contribution to this legislation. We have investments in building out a new broadband infrastructure. This will allow rural and other underserved areas to join the global economy. This legislation also provides $27 billion to accelerate deployment of smart grid technology, fund energy efficiency investments and establish a new loan guarantee program for renewable energy. These will provide new jobs. They will reduce our dependence on foreign oil. And they will protect our environment.

This bill contains important health provisions. The bill will help those people who lose their jobs by providing temporary health insurance. We do this in two ways. The COBRA program, which allows people to keep their insurance from their former employer, will be subsidized for those who want to hold on to that private insurance. It will also have a component to provide funds under the Medicaid program to cover the unemployed Americans who do not have COBRA coverage. Secondly, the bill would accelerate the nationwide adoption of health information technology. This investment will create high tech jobs, reduce medical errors and improve care. And thirdly, the bill will provide a temporary boost for State Medicaid programs facing surges in caseloads at the same time that the State has fewer resources in revenues. This is called the FMAP, the Federal Medicaid Assistance Program, and it would provide additional funds for States with particularly high unemployment.

In this bill, when it was reported out of committee, we had a sensible provision to allow low-income women better access to family planning services, one of the most important preventive health services we can provide. It also would allow women to stay in the workforce. Unfortunately, this provision has generated a firestorm of misinformation and unfounded criticism from the Republican members. I have spoken to President Obama about this provision. He strongly supports this cost-saving policy. He is committed, as I am, to seeing this provision become law. But we don't want this provision to become a distraction from the other legislation.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WAXMAN. I yield myself an additional 20 seconds.

So in order to keep the spotlight focused on the important task at hand, this provision will be removed from the bill. We will get it into the law in some other legislation later in the year.

We in this bill have an important down payment on programs that lead us in the right direction.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I proudly yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I thank my good buddy for yielding.

Margaret Thatcher, the former Prime Minister of England, said that the problem with socialism is you eventually run out of somebody else's money. And what I'm concerned about here is not just the money we're spending today. We have spent $700 billion on the Wall Street bailout, and we don't know where most of that money has gone. Now we're going to put another $835 billion into this so-called economic stimulus bill.

President Obama said on January 16 that this plan is a significant down payment on our most urgent challenges. Vice President BIDEN said last Sunday that Timothy Geithner, the Treasury Secretary, will soon recommend to President Obama whether more money is needed beyond the $700 billion allocated to American banks. Lawrence Summers, the top economic adviser to the President, said that the government can't afford to spend more than $1 trillion to boost the economy and save financial institutions.

My question is, where does it end? We're printing so much money and we're going to spend so much money that we're going to put this whole country and our future generations into a deep hole which will lead us, in my opinion, to government control and socialism.

The thing that has made this country great is the free enterprise system and private enterprise and private individuals making a profit, creating jobs and making the economy flourish. What we're doing is we're turning this whole economy over to the government with more and more and more spending. And what we're doing today is just the beginning. We're talking about $2 trillion, $3 trillion, $4 trillion more down the road, and we can't afford it. We can't afford the inflation, and we certainly can't afford socialism and more government control.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased at this time to yield 1 minute to the very distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. SPACE), a new member of our committee who has played a very constructive and important role in the development of this bill.

Mr. SPACE. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and I would like to thank Chairman WAXMAN and the leadership for including funds in this bill for improved access to rural broadband. Put differently, it recognizes the importance of access to high-speed Internet technology for all communities, regardless of affluence or location.

This bill will help bridge the divide between rural America and urban and suburban America when it comes to access not only to technology, but what technology brings; better educational opportunities, better health-care related opportunities and certainly better economic development opportunities.

What we're saying in this bill is something that I have known for a long time. High speed Internet access is not a luxury. It is a necessity. And what we're saying with this bill today and with the allocation of these funds for rural broadband is that our rural communities will no longer be left behind and no longer be relegated to the sidelines of advancing technology.

Today is not a small step. It is a massive leap that will bring hundreds of thousands of Americans in Appalachian Ohio and in other underserved areas into the new century.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased to yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

□ 1815

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Chair, I do not want to see any family face unemployment or foreclosure, or any business experience a downturn, but I fear we are suffering from a tyranny of worn-out ideas here.

This bill is called a stimulus bill, but I believe it is an unsustainable spending bill.

Mr. Chairman, when did we decide that more Federal spending in itself is economic stimulus? Since 2000, we have increased spending by about 60 percent in this country and the national debt has nearly doubled. Despite these growing expenditures, our economy has worsened, and we are left with an $11 trillion debt. And now we have a proposal that is before us that would be the largest spending bill in the United States history, and no plan to pay for it.

Will we continue to rely on foreign nations, such as China, already bankrolling our spending habits? Or just defer responsibility to our children

and our grandchildren and future generations? We are delaying tough choices and we are pushing reality down the road here. Much of this assistance goes to subsidizing States. Some States, like Nebraska, have thus far managed their budgets responsibly, even in tough times. I won't ask Nebraskans to pay for poor governance elsewhere.

Mr. Chair, I don't want to give a speech simply to oppose. There are some important, new bold ideas here, such as alternative energy for a sustainable energy future, a modern electrical grid and health information technology. But the entirety of the package puts us on a path of aggressive spending, in the name of stimulus, that will be nearly impossible to reverse.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I ask that the balance of our time be managed by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. ALTMIRE). Without objection, the gentleman from New Jersey will control the time.

There was no objection.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Last year, 2.6 million jobs were lost, and on Monday alone four American companies announced that they were laying off 37,000 employees. When workers lose their jobs, many also lose their health insurance. And for those lucky enough to keep their coverage, many end up delaying medical care because they choose to use their limited resources on groceries and other basic necessities. These families need help, and they will get it from this economic recovery package.

This bill makes important improvements to COBRA coverage so it is more affordable for workers who have been laid off. In addition, for those workers who have lost their job but are not eligible for COBRA coverage, the bill creates a new temporary Medicaid option that will be paid for entirely by the Federal Government. Combined, these provisions will help provide health coverage to over 8 million Americans over the next year.

In addition, this bill will provide States with urgent fiscal relief. Right now, almost every State is experiencing a budget crisis. Governors are struggling to find ways to close these budget gaps, and many governors are starting to look at scaling back on their Medicaid programs, just as more and more people are in need of Medicaid services.

This bill provides critical financial assistance so States are not forced to scale back their Medicaid programs and can continue to serve those in need.

We also make a significant investment in our economic future by investing $20 billion to help doctors and hospitals acquire and use health information technology. For years we have all been talking about the need to modernize our health care system, and this bill finally provides the means to do so. Not only does this legislation invest in our economy today, but it also makes our health care system safer and more efficient for years to come.

The recovery package answers the pleas from economists who said that we must act quickly and boldly, and it certainly deserves bipartisan support.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I thank the distinguished ranking member for yielding me this time, and I do rise, unfortunately, in opposition to H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the so-called stimulus package.

Mr. Chairman, we spent 12 hours in the Energy and Commerce Committee marking our portion of this bill up last week, and a few, a very few Republican amendments were approved and summarily stripped out as we see this new bill before us today.

But it is not really process that is my objection, it is just that I have a great fear that instead of throwing water on a fire, as it has been described, this economic problem that we have, we are about to throw kerosene on the fire and make the matter a lot worse. We tried to explain that to President Obama when he visited our conference today, and we want him to show some changes in the bill that we Republicans can accept, like more tax breaks for small businesses and entrepreneurs who create jobs.

I regretfully oppose the bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE).

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Chairman, we are not launching just a stimulus package here, we are launching a new, clean energy rocket. We know how to launch revolutions in technology. We did it in the original Apollo project that started right in this Chamber when John F. Kennedy launched that project standing right behind me. In this bill today, we are launching a similarly ambitious and similarly important clean energy revolution.

The reason I say that is the next few years, when hundreds of people go to work building lithium-ion batteries for our advanced electric cars, like at the A123 Battery Company in Massachusetts, it is because of this bill. When hundreds of people go to work doing advanced photovoltaic panels, like at Nanosolar, a thin-film photovoltaic company in California, it is going to be because of this bill. When hundreds of people go to work making gasoline out of algae, like they are doing in the deserts of Nevada, it is because of this bill. We are launching a rocket, a revolution, today.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES), a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Chairman, the significance of what we face can only be described as a generational challenge. Many of my colleagues seem to believe that the only solution is to spend enormous amounts of taxpayer money.

First we are told that we had to spend $700 billion to bail out Wall Street. Then we were told that, despite the bailout's failure, we needed another $350 billion. And now this Congress is told to approve nearly $1 trillion in a taxpayer-funded giveaway.

Mr. Chairman, perhaps it is time to remind my colleagues that this Nation is already facing unsustainable levels of government spending. Responsible action today is not to spend more, but to reform the way we do business and spend less. The current economic crisis should serve as a warning, a powerful warning to this Congress: face your economic demons, or be crushed by your political cowardice.

For years we have lived on borrowed time. We have continued to throw money at unsustainable and broken programs like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. These programs must be fixed.

On a more blunt point, our Nation's energy policy is an absolute travesty. To put it simply, our policies are bizarre. We want abundant energy, but we enact policies that do nothing but march us in the opposite direction.

It is time for this Congress to face reality. We should permit more oil development off Alaska and our coastlines. I know this is shocking to hear, but we must also match the leadership of France and produce 80 percent of our electricity from nuclear reactors.

The bottom line is we need jobs. Energy development will create jobs. I can assure you that throwing more and more money at the problem isn't going to solve the crisis. Simply taking action to be seen as doing something is denying reality and is an injustice to the American people.

Tough choices need to be made. While they will not always be popular, nor will they be easy, they are most certainly necessary.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts, the chairman of the Environment and Energy Subcommittee, Mr. MARKEY.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman.

This urgently-needed stimulus bill funds infrastructure projects that are shovel-ready, while also supporting future-oriented projects that are circuit-ready: broadband, electronic medical records, smart grid, advanced battery technologies, and other vital priorities.

This package is a major downpayment on the clean, renewable energy future this country has been waiting for and desperately needs.

But this legislation should not be characterized by what we spend, but

rather by what we save. These smart, clean energy investments will save jobs, ensuring that windmills and solar panels are built here at home. It will save energy through efficiency measures on schools and buildings, and it will save consumers and businesses money on their heating, gas and energy bills.

With the support included in this package, wind capacity will grow from 25,000 megawatts today to 44,000 megawatts generated on a daily basis in 2012. At 220 tons of steel per wind turbine, that is nearly 3 million tons of new steel demands. Those steel jobs are blue collar jobs tinted green by the force of the clean energy revolution.

The massive investments in weatherization, State energy efficiency grants, and Federal building efficiency are some of the safest and smartest investments our country can make right now. They put money into the pockets of American workers and pay for themselves in the form of energy savings and lower energy prices.

This energy efficiency double dividend is a proven, reliable phenomenon that our current weak economy must exploit. Working smarter, not harder, that is what this bill is all about.

The bill provides $20 billion in new health IT infrastructure to improve care, lower costs and reduce medical efforts. I am pleased that the bill includes patient privacy safeguards that I have long advocated, including a provision that I offered at the Energy and Commerce Committee markup to ensure that patients' medical records are made unreadable to unauthorized individuals. This was supported by Chairman WAXMAN and Ranking Member BARTON. This is an issue that we all agree on, the privacy and security of our medical records.

Today we have before us a balanced, well-thought out package that provides tax relief for 95 percent of Americans and targets investments in key areas to turn around the American economy. I strongly support these measures and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to yield 2 minutes to my colleague from Indiana, Mr. BUYER.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Chairman, in December as then President-elect Obama was putting together his transition team, I turned to the staff on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee on the Republican side and said I do appreciate Mr. Obama's tone for bipartisanship, and I instructed the staff to look at all of the construction projects and work with the Bush administration. We sent a letter then to not only Speaker PELOSI but also President-elect Obama. We asked for two things, in essence. What I sought to do was complement then President-elect Obama with regard to the extension of his hand in bipartisanship.

My letter asked to include veterans in the stimulus plan, and to do two things. Since my Democrat colleagues love to do public works, we would do that for them. We would do public works, and we will also do job creation and entrepreneurship to satisfy Republicans. We would be bipartisan in regard to our letter to the transition team and to the Speaker of the House.

Well, what do you think happened? My gesture was half met. So as the ranking Republican on Veterans' Affairs, I asked for a billion dollars with regard to $950 million for hospital nonrecurring maintenance, i.e. construction, and then $500 million for cemeteries, recurring maintenance, and then a billion dollars for small business loan guarantees.

Oh, we are not going to take creation of jobs and entrepreneurship. That was rejected. What they took were the public works side. Let's create jobs. Well, excuse me, strike that. We are going to create work. See, there is a difference between creation of work and creation of a job.

So what I am hopeful is here, I have gone to the Rules Committee and I have offered four amendments to the Rules Committee, and I am hopeful that they will adopt this. Entrepreneurship is important.

The CHAIR. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. LEWIS of California. I yield an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Chair, the balance of my remarks I submit for the RECORD.

Mr. Chair, today, the headline in the State's largest newspaper noted an additional 50,000 job losses across the country. Indiana's unemployment rate jumped a full 1% last month to 8.2%. Hoosiers are worried about their economic future, wondering if they can afford to send their kids to college or afford retirement.

The stimulus bill being rammed through Congress is not the medicine to meet the economic challenges we face in the short term or the long term. Business owners, workers and employers tell me they believe we need a short term stimulus to get the economy moving again, real tools to help them stay solvent.

However, the bill before us is a political tool geared more toward 2012 than 2009. Very little of this stimulus bill will do anything to grow the economy or expand our job base. Not to mention the cost on future generations. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the federal deficit will rise to a record $1.2 trillion in 2009, and that does not even include the near $1 trillion included in this massive spending bill.

Most of the discretionary spending in this bill will not actually be spent until after 2010—only 8% of the spending will take place this year.

This legislation alone increases the national debt by $6,700 for every American household. It doles out enough money to give every man, woman and child in the nation $2,700 each. How can I explain that as responsible and rational government spending to the Hoosiers that I represent back home in Indiana?

This is only the first shot. Watch out America. The increased debt caused by this legislation will be used as a further rationale for raising taxes and continued government spending in the future.

The Federal Government cannot spend its way out of this recession. History tells us that to expand the economy the private sector must grow. We need to pass policies that promote growth and economic expansion, not policies that give handouts. Instead of a handout, we must give Americans a hand through short-term stimulus and long-term tax policies which will allow the real job makers—the private sector—to grow our economy.

This legislation is not the appropriate means to revitalize the economy. Instead of creating higher taxes for American families by increasing government spending, we should make permanent the 2001 and 2003 tax reductions and reduce individual, small business and corporate taxes. Extending these tax cuts and further reducing taxes would stimulate long-term job production and increase the gross domestic product, thereby improving our economy and shortening the length of the recession. This bill creates a lot of work, not the desperately needed jobs that help bolster the long term growth of this Nation's economy.

□ 1830

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. I thank you for yielding.

I rise today in strong support of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan and to give you just 10 of the many good reasons to support this particular bill.

One, it will save and create three to four million jobs;

Two, it provides a critical boost in Medicaid assistance to States so that budget shortfalls don't harm access to health care;

Three, it will help those who lose their jobs maintain health insurance;

Four, it invests in renewable energy technologies and research;

Five, it provides a 100 percent increase in weatherization funding to help make homes and businesses energy efficient;

Six, it extends unemployment insurance coverage through the end of the year and increases the benefit by $25 a week;

Seven, it increases the maximum Pell Grant to help more people go to college;

Eight, it helps rebuild our schools and gives them financial support;

Nine, it increases funding for affordable housing and homelessness prevention programs;

Ten, it will give a tax credit to 95 percent of American workers, a credit worth up to $1,000.

This is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER).

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I thank the gentleman.

This debate is really about two dollars. This is the dollar that's in the hands of the American people tonight, and this is the dollar, what it looks like when we give it to the Federal Government. You know, it shrinks because we don't spend it wisely.

Tonight we're being asked to consider a bill for $825 billion. And you know what? We don't have $825 billion. You know what we're going to have to do? We're going to have to print these. And guess what? In order to issue them, we're going to have to borrow the money from countries like China.

The question is, are we going to try and spend and borrow our way out of this economic downturn? The American people know that's not the answer. They also know that it's better for them to invest this dollar in the American economy than let the Federal Government go spend this dollar in our economy.

Mr. Chair, I'm disappointed that we are considering a bill tonight that's almost equal to the entire discretionary budget that would normally go through the appropriation process. Oh, no, we didn't go through any process, we were brought a bill and said this is what we should do.

The American people want us to leave this dollar in their pocket.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE).

Mr. ALTMIRE. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, today this House will vote on the largest economic recovery package in this Nation's history. After weeks of discussion and debate, we have come to a compromise bill that incorporates different points of view and makes the necessary hard choices.

Funding in this bill rebuilds crumbling roads and bridges, locks and dams, it improves security on our borders and our ports, it repairs and maintains our VA and DOD health facilities, modernizes our schools, laboratories and classrooms. But, most important, this economic recovery package will put people back to work and put money back in their pockets with a tax cut for 95 percent of working families in America. It will create jobs, get the economy moving again, and leave this country with items of lasting significance to show for it.

Mr. Chairman, we simply cannot wait any longer to help our economy and get this country moving again. Passage of this bill is a necessary step in that direction.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, could I inquire as to the amount of time that's remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from California has 53½ minutes remaining.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Chairman, pursuant to H. Res. 88, I yield the balance of my time to the ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. CAMP.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan will control the balance of the time.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished ranking member of the House Budget Committee and member of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, we can do better than this. We're losing tens of thousands of jobs a week in this economy. This is the worst recession we've seen in generations. And what are we about to vote on? We are about to vote on a trillion dollar spending package—yes, a trillion dollars, because the Congressional Budget Office just told us today just to pay for the interest on this bill is another $350 billion. We're going to vote on a trillion dollar spending package that amounts to basically a spending wish list for all the special interest groups out there. In fact, for those who are into all of this spending, half of the spending doesn't even occur for 2 more years. But the spending that occurs quickly are things like $15 million for the National Endowment for the Arts, $6 billion for arts and culture, $600 million to buy new cars for Federal employees. Is this the way toward prosperity? Toward jobs?

I want you to take a look at the tax policy in this bill. The big idea is let's give everybody a rebate that's 10 bucks a week per individual or a whopping $20 a week for couples. Do you really think that's going to turn this economy around?

2.7 percent of this bill is aimed at encouraging businesses to retain and create jobs; 2.7 percent of this entire $1 trillion bill to help businesses create jobs. I think we need a little more than that. We need to help the small businesses, the self-employed, the entrepreneurs get out there and create jobs. We had a major manufacturer in the Midwest just announce 20,000 layoffs yesterday. There is hardly anything in this bill that will do anything to help those manufacturers get those jobs back.

What's worse is that after we go on this spending binge, this will lead to higher taxes. The Congressional Budget Office is saying we're going to have the highest unemployment we've seen in 25 years for the next 4 years. And what this bill will do is it will lead us to higher taxes; higher taxes on small businesses, higher taxes on capital, higher taxes on investment, on our savings portfolios, on our retirement, on our college savings plans. That's what is in store right around the corner at the end of next year.

My fear is this: we need to come together with an economic rescue package that actually helps the economy. This bill is not worthy of our new President's signature. We can do better than this. This is not something that should come to the floor. I understand the majority can do as they please. They can shut the minority out—and that's fine, they did that, and that is their choice and their prerogative—but what really matters is whether this creates jobs, and it doesn't.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, let me just take up where my good friend from the other side left off. I take great umbrage with what he has said.

This is a very good measure that is timed for this extraordinary time that we're in now. We are in the worst economic crisis in the history of this country, many say since the Depression. But from what I understand, at the rate of losing 6,000 homes to foreclosures every day, we're losing 7,200 jobs every day since the beginning of this year, there has been nothing like that in the history of this country. The American people are expecting us to act and move with boldness, with confidence, not whining, not saying, oh, woe is me.

Now, Mr. Chairman, let me tell you that these are, indeed, the times that try men's souls. In the history of this country we've had those moments. When the history is written on this moment, what do we want them to say about what the Congress did when we faced the greatest economic crisis of our time? Do we want to say we whined and said no and did nothing? Or do they want to see where we did the practical thing of stimulating the economy by investing in its infrastructure, in its schools, in its health care, that not only creates jobs, but creates wealth and gets our economy well?

And, yes, we understand there's another way to stimulate the economy through selective tax cuts, but Mr. Chairman, those tax cuts needed to be targeted down at the level of the people at the lower incomes and the middle incomes that are going to be most likely to spend the money.

Now, Mr. Chairman, we've taken care of the banks; let's take care of the American people and pass this measure.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. HERGER).

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this bill with the firm belief and hope that we can do better.

We are currently undergoing a severe economic downturn. My own State and district have been badly impacted. And I share our new President's desire to move quickly on an economic recovery measure. However, I cannot support a bill that claims to provide $275 billion in tax relief when $80 billion of that is going to people with no income tax liability. You can't cut taxes for someone who doesn't pay taxes. Mr. Chairman, we can do better by focusing on tax relief that creates incentives for economic activity.

Nor can I support a bill that spends hundreds of billions on big government programs like the National Endowment for the Arts or new cars for Federal workers. We do need to make long-term investments in infrastructure and health information technology, but long-term investments require careful planning. We can do better by taking

the time to get infrastructure and health IT right, and by eliminating wasteful spending.

Nor can I support a bill that would lead employers to cut jobs or drop health coverage in the middle of a recession. Allowing workers to stay on COBRA longer—more than 30 years in some cases—could impose an unfunded mandate on employers of $40 billion or more. In the Ways and Means Committee, the majority refused even to study the effect of this provision on coverage. We can do better by expanding eligibility for health insurance tax relief, and by providing more funding for high-risk pools for those who can't get coverage elsewhere.

Finally, I can't support an $825 billion bill that won't fully take effect until 18 months or 2 years down the road, or even longer. Mr. Chairman, people in my district need help today. We can do better by passing fast-acting tax relief that will create jobs this year, plus extended unemployment benefits for those out of work.

I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.'' Mr. Chairman, we can and must do better.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from New Jersey has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. PALLONE. I would yield that remaining time to Mr. OBEY.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I know that our new President is sincere in trying to get the economy moving. Unfortunately, I think the only winners in this bill are the special interests who are swarming the Capitol looking for their piece of the pie. And the losers will be the American taxpayers, who ultimately are going to see their taxes increased to pay for all this spending. There's a right way to spur the economy. This isn't it. And again, it will lead to higher tax increases.

Proponents claim that this will help spur demand for families, but the average worker will only take home an extra $1.35 a day. I can't imagine them rushing to the mall with that small of a windfall. This is supposed to help small businesses create jobs, but in truth, there's more money allocated to buy new art in America than there is to help small businesses expense new equipment and computers.

This is designed to create jobs, but each job would cost $225,000 to create a smaller $50,000 job. This is supposed to be about infrastructure, but only about a tiny part, 3½ percent, will go to new roads. And school construction is just a tiny part of a massive education bill. And what's frustrating is there is no free money, there is no free money in Washington; someone sometime is going to have to pay for this. And at a time when we are seeing record debt, the highest debt in peacetime since 1930, it is the American public who ultimately will have to pay this bill.

To put it in perspective so that every taxpayer understands, the cost of this measure is equal to doubling all the income taxes every American pays for 1 year; not just the wealthy, not just the middle class, every taxpayer would have to double their taxes in order to pay for this spending spree.

Mr. President, I would urge you to veto this bill. It is not targeted or timely. It is not an era of new responsibility. This is a tax increase, a stimulus that will fail, unfortunately, and we have a better idea.

□ 1845

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) for the purpose of entering into a colloquy.

Mr. POLIS of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I would like to engage Chairman MILLER in a colloquy for purposes of illuminating the intent of the job training and worker diversification provisions of H.R. 1, the Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Earlier in the month, I, along with 12 of my colleagues, sent a letter to then President-elect Obama seeking to promote gender equity in the infrastructure job creation spurred by the economic recovery funding. With women holding less than 10 percent of construction jobs, the letter asked for additional funding for the Department of Labor program known as WANTO, which trains women for higher-wage nontraditional jobs, and to strengthen the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs so it can effectively enforce current laws that require contractors to reach out and recruit women into jobs in which they're underrepresented.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. If the gentleman would yield, I want to say to the gentleman I share your concern that women receive equal opportunity to be trained and hired in the types of higher-paid positions that are traditionally occupied by men. The bill provides approximately $4 billion to train workers who need new or additional skills. Job training to train women in nontraditional job retains its priority recognition as under current law.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

The bill also provides $80 million to enhance worker protections on those jobs including through the Office of Federal Contract Compliance, Health and Safety, and wage and hour enforcement.

Mr. POLIS of Colorado. I thank the chairman for his explanation. I appreciate the consideration that this Chamber has given to improving the protections and opportunities afforded to women seeking to take care of their families in this very challenging economic time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes at this time to the distinguished gentleman of the Ways and Means Committee from Washington State (Mr. REICHERT).

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Chairman, just last week the Joint Committee on Taxation could not say whether any jobs would be created by the nearly $1 trillion package before us.

We cannot let calls for swift action overrun common sense, thorough consideration, and healthy debate. The bailout showed us the mistakes that can happen when government rushes to action.

We are united, however, Democrats and Republicans, together in recognizing the need for action. This is a time for smart, accountable, and targeted investments to get our economy back on track, not more of the same shotgun spending that mortgages our children's futures.

There are clearly provisions in this bill that I support and I think every Member in the House has something in this bill they support. But we are here to pass an emergency stimulus package that creates jobs, not another spending bill.

To stimulate the economy and preserve, promote, and create jobs, we must enact proven measures like broad-based tax relief for families and small businesses, opening new markets to trade, and investing wisely in infrastructure. Those are the things that will get our economy moving and create jobs for people in our Nation.

So I urge my colleagues to oppose this measure so that we can work together with President Obama, who has reached out to the Republican side and encouraged us to provide our input, our ideas, and our thoughts to craft effective legislation that gets our economy back on track.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the legislation.

Our economy is falling apart. We have millions of people out of work. We have millions of people who are out of work that don't even have unemployment benefits anymore. We have got to respond to the immediate needs of the American people.

I don't agree with everything in this legislation, but I know one thing: If we don't move quickly to try to take steps to stimulate this economy, we are only going to go down faster. I see this legislation as being an appropriate first step that will help bring needed money and put it in the hands of the American people.

We're going to have to do more, though. I have bills to create a universal pre-kindergarten program that will help American families relieve a lot of financial burden; a bill with JOHN CONYERS to create a not-for-profit health care system, universal health care, that will solve a major problem for business and industry and give all Americans health care.

Congress must make a beginning. That's what we were elected to do. We need to work together, Democrats and Republicans, and put aside our differences on some of the issues that are in this package in order to look for the higher good of the American people.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. KUCINICH. So I would say to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, we see things in this package we don't like. We don't like the fact that some of the benefits aren't getting to people quickly enough. I am concerned about that as well. But the fact of the matter is we have to realize this is our first step, and that first step has to be in the direction of relieving the economic crisis for the American family.

I stood with Members on the other side of the aisle in challenging the bailout. But it's time that we start to give benefits to the American people, and this legislation does that. I urge its support.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Louisiana, Dr. Boustany.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Chairman, both sides can agree that our national economy is in trouble as tens of thousands of Americans are without work. But the question remains, are we going to get this right? The bill before us falls far short of the goals that we are hoping to achieve.

In 2005 my home State of Louisiana saw economic devastation as the result of two hurricanes. During that recovery effort, we learned many things about what government can and can't do effectively and quickly. Tax relief for small businesses and families enable businesses across the Gulf Coast to rebuild, expand, and create good-paying, long-lasting jobs. As a result, thousands of Louisiana families found security they desperately needed following these two storms.

Government direct spending was also attempted. However, 3 years later, 3 years later, much of that money is still tied up in bureaucratic entanglement.

There's a lesson here. There is clearly a lesson. There are many different solutions to a problem, and this economic crisis, as complex as it is, certainly proves this. But secondly and more importantly, we must look for solutions that will produce results.

We need to spur job creation to get Americans working again, and the best way to achieve that job creation is by reducing taxes on small businesses, entrepreneurs, and companies who can put people to work now.

We are willing to work with the administration and with our friends across the aisle to accomplish these goals. Together I believe we could craft a bill that would stimulate private sector job growth, which is what's desperately needed. That will make this country competitive again. This bill will not accomplish those goals.

I would urge a ''no'' vote on this bill, and let's come up with a better way to do this.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the House, I must say that I truly admire the courage of my friends on the other side of the aisle. In the middle of the worst economic downturn that any of us can remember, our parents told us about the Depression, an unprecedented and accelerating job loss all across the American economy in every sector, our friends on the other side of the aisle ask us just for one last time to do what they've been doing the last 8 years; to just one more time give the tax cuts to the richest people in the country; to just one more time dive into the tank of fiscal irresponsibility.

They inherited a $5 trillion surplus, and they squandered it to an $8 trillion deficit. They created the slowest job creation since World War II, the slowest job creation since World War II in a recovery. They held middle income wages stagnate. In fact, many families lost ground. The wealthy did the best.

They stood by while banks created liar loans, while banks created no-doc loans, while people on Wall Street played fast and easy with hardworking Americans' money in their pension plans. And what do we get for their 8 years? We see people now getting their returns on their pensions, their 401(k) plans, and 30, 40, 50 percent of their assets are gone and those who are over 55 living in panic about how will they have a retirement. And yet they stand here day after day and say just let us have more of what we were doing in the past.

You know, when that helicopter took off outside here in this plaza, millions of Americans gave that President a wave good-bye because in the middle of this historic downturn, millions and millions of Americans made a decision to go in another direction because what you were doing hadn't worked for them or for their families, hadn't worked for them or their families, because that was your policy.

Mr. Chairman, that was their policy, crude and rude with respect to working Americans in this country and their families.

So what do we have now? We have an incredible consensus of economists who are on the left, who are on the right, who advised Republican candidates in the past, Ronald Reagan, JOHN MCCAIN, and they have said you have got to put together a recovery act where the government spends this money on projects to put people back to work to create jobs. It will not stop unemployment, but it will help. It will help. And that's what we're doing here. That's what we're doing here.

They also said from the right and the left, as they told us that the American economy is shutting down while you're asking to do more of the same, they said don't forget education. We cannot have young people lose a year or 2 years of education because of an economic downturn. You must support education at the local level. Why? Because the States and local governments are hemorrhaging, hemorrhaging the loss of revenues. Because people can't afford to buy a car, they're not buying a car. Because home price values are dropping so fast that they're going in and getting their property taxes reestablished because of the loss of value in homes, and that's costing local governments and school districts money from sales tax and property tax. So we're trying to make sure that those students don't lose that educational opportunity.

We see a number of students are now starting to forego college who are in the middle of their college education because of costs. Yes, we're going to increase the Pell grant so they can stay. We're going to give an income tax credit so they can stay in school. We're going to give them work opportunities on campus so they can stay in school. Because that's what the economists, that's what the venture capitalists said, that's the captains of industry said needs to be done. Don't lose that, because when this economy re-emerges, we need those people to be competitive with the rest of the world.

Yes, we're going to help school districts and school construction so that young students can go to school in a cleaner, better environment, so they'll be connected to the latest technology, so they'll have the educational opportunities. And it will be a safe school. It will be a modern school. Yes, we're going to help them out and do that because they don't have the ability to do that because your economic policies froze municipal bonds and school bonds where people voted to impose taxes on themselves to improve their schools, to improve their cities. But the credit markets are seized; so we're trying to help them out for the time being until those markets unfreeze.

And, yes, $300 billion was given to the Bush administration and Secretary Paulson, and so far it appears it was given without conditions in terms of any effort by the big banks to unfreeze the credit markets to lend to small businesses, to lend to families in need.

Yes, we're changing policy. And we're doing it at the direction of the American people because the policy you gave them for 8 years was a disaster for them, their families, their retirements, their wages, their health care. They want to go in a different direction, and we will take them in a different direction. We will take them to job creation. We'll take them to better education. And, hopefully, we'll take them to a stronger economy on the advice, on the advice, with all due respect, of not the other side of the aisle, but of economists from the left to the right of impeccable credentials who said the

only question about this package really is, is it large enough?

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

The CHAIR. All Members are reminded to address the Chair with their remarks.

□ 1900

Mr. CAMP. I thank the Chair for that statement.

At this time I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM).

Mr. ROSKAM. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

So much material and so little time. You know, we heard the President in his speech talking about putting aside petty recriminations, and he characterized that as, actually, childish arguments. And I think that some of the tone that I have heard tonight, we can rise above.

You know, I find it ironic that the gentleman from California referred favorably, maybe for the first time in his career, the first time in my hearing, favorably quoting and referring to Republican economists as ''persuasive.'' I had never heard that from him before, Mr. Chairman.

But I would like to quote from our President. In his State of the Union Message, he said something that I think actually brings us all together, it's really poignant, and I think it's beautiful. In fact, it says it has been risk takers, the doers, the makers of things who have carried us up the long rugged path towards prosperity and freedom. The market's power to generate wealth and expand freedom is unmatched.

Here we are, on the verge of the majority spending $825 billion in a spending plan, the likes of which we have not seen before, with only $40 million in tax relief for small business. When the President came in, he seemed surprised at those numbers, by comparison, $40 million to the risk takers that we all say are the economic engine that are going to move us into the future.

We can do better, and I think it's incumbent upon us to take up that challenge.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) is recognized and controls 10 minutes.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Our committee's portion, the infrastructure recovery program is targeted. It will be transparent and recipients will be held accountable, and the investments are desperately needed. The construction sector is suffering the highest unemployment rate of any industrial sector, 15.3 percent, 1.4 million construction workers out of a job.

Fully implemented, as our committee proposes, we can have a million workers on a construction site in June of this year and generate $325 billion in total economic activity when fully implemented, jobs that cannot be outsourced to other countries, using materials that are made in America, not outsourced beyond our shores.

Transparency, we require reporting by every State DOT, every transit agency, every airport authority, every 30 days on the contract awarded, by contract, on the specific jobs, job description and payroll, which we will receive and make public through hearings that we will conduct 30 days after the funding is allocated to the States and every 60 days thereafter.

Accountability, an amendment which I expect or hope to offer tomorrow made in order by the Rules Committee, will have a requirement that funds be committed in 90 days, use it or lose it.

I am pleased to rise in strong support of H.R. 1, the ''American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009''.

With more than 1.4 million construction workers out of work, and the construction industry suffering the highest unemployment rate (15.3 percent) of any industrial sector, this bill is urgently needed to put America back to work. The infrastructure investments funded by this bill will create good, family-wage jobs—jobs that cannot be outsourced to another country, because the work must be done here in the U.S. on our roads, bridges, transit and rail systems, airports, waterways, wastewater treatment facilities, and Federal buildings.

For more than a year now, I have worked to ensure that infrastructure investment plays a key role in our Nation's economic recovery.

I thank Chairman OBEY for working with me in this effort. We consulted extensively on the transportation and infrastructure provisions in the bill. Although the legislation before us today does not include everything I had proposed, it is a very good start, and I am hopeful it can be improved and fine-tuned as deliberations continue.

In December 2008, I proposed to House Leadership that the economic recovery legislation include at least $85 billion for transportation, environmental, and other public infrastructure investments. H.R. 1 includes approximately $63 billion for these programs.

My proposal adhered to the following six principles:

Funds must be invested in ready-to-go projects. I believe we need an aggressive timetable for the use of funds, including a 90-day, ''use-it-or-lose-it'' requirement for 50 percent of the funds, which will produce a ''quick hit'' that will jump-start our economy and create a substantial number of new construction jobs by June.

2. Funds must be used to create green-collar jobs and invest in projects that decrease our dependence on foreign oil and address global climate change.

3. The steel, iron, and manufactured goods required for these projects must be manufactured in the United States.

4. Wherever possible, funds must be distributed by existing statutory formulas, with no earmarks, to expedite the flow of funds.

5. Transparency and accountability in the use of funds must be achieved.

6. States and other recipients of formula funds must maintain their effort in terms of current State and local investment levels.

These principles are, in large measure, reflected in the legislation before us today.

Although the use-it-or-lose-it deadline in the bill is currently set at 180 days, I am hopeful it can be shortened to 90 days, and I will be offering an amendment to do so.

On December 18, I had a lengthy conference call with 14 State Secretaries of Transportation and Chief Executive Officers of public transit agencies. I outlined for them my 90-day, use-it-or-lose-it proposal, which would require them to obligate 50 percent of the funds allocated to them within 90 days.

Every one of the participants on the conference call enthusiastically affirmed that they are ready to go within 90 days and can meet the use-it-or-lose-it requirement.

In another conference call earlier this month and at a Committee hearing last week, we were again assured that State and local grant recipients are proactively preparing to meet tight deadlines and will be able use these funds quickly.

Despite these assurances from State and local officials, some here in Washington are skeptical that a 90-day deadline can be met. This skepticism is why the use-it-or-lose-it deadline was extended to 180 days in last week's Appropriations Committee mark-up.

Ninety days is a tight deadline, but that is exactly what we need.

Business as usual is not good enough anymore. If the purpose of this legislation is to be achieved, then we must set tight deadlines, and hold everyone—from Federal agencies to State and local grant recipients—accountable to them.

I firmly believe that the infrastructure funds provided by this bill can—with the right incentives—produce a substantial number of jobs by June, while also improving our deteriorating infrastructure and laying the foundation for our future economic growth.

I thank Speaker PELOSI, Chairman OBEY, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, and Chairman OLVER, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies, for working with me throughout the development of this legislation. I strongly urge your support for H.R. 1, a true investment in America's future.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. At this time I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. TIM MURPHY).

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, with 11 million Americans out of work, we indeed should be concerned about Americans out of work and helping Americans to have jobs.

Tomorrow the House will vote on a bill of some $835 billion as an economic stimulus and spending package. Thirty billion dollars of that will be for infrastructure spending for roads and bridges, some $20 million for electronic medical reports, both worthy causes, which perhaps should be put into the highway section, but that's as it is. What's key here is are these really for American jobs?

The electronic medical records is important because it allows hospitals to have their records on computers so doctors can access them from everywhere competently and confidently, and can help reduce millions of dollars of waste and deaths that occur from hospital errors.

However, in the Energy and Commerce Committee a few days ago I offered an amendment to say let's guarantee that the software work and the applications of that technology be done in America. It's too easy, at the stroke of a keyboard, to send electronic data across the globe where these software applications for hospitals could be done.

So we put an amendment in. The chairman agreed to it. The committee unanimously agreed to, but, mysteriously, when the bill was printed, that and a few other Republican amendments were omitted.

Tonight I was at the Rules Committee asking them to please restore this amendment to say if we are going to spend $20 billion to help American jobs, let's make sure we have a clause in this bill that helps American jobs.

There's another amendment I offered too that says for construction and other parts of this bill let's also use that for American jobs. Let's not have the same mistake that occurred when we approved building a fence line at the border with Mexico, and it turned out it was done using a loophole with Chinese steel. Our concrete, our rebar, the cars that are going to be bought supposedly with this bill ought to be made in America.

From the iron mines to the manufacturers, to the mills, let's use it to buy America. Let's return those amendments to this bill. If we really are going to be serious about American jobs, let's make this American jobs.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished Chair of the Surface Transportation Subcommittee, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. I thank the gentleman.

For 8 long years our Republican colleagues stood shoulder-to-shoulder with George Bush as our country accelerated its slide toward a third world infrastructure. The collapse of the bridge in Minnesota is perhaps the signal moment of the Bush administration. What did they do before and what have they done after for our infrastructure? Nothing.

They didn't believe in investing in our public infrastructure. Tax cuts, tax cuts, tax cuts. Tax cuts never built a single highway. Tax cuts never built a transit system. Tax cuts never replaced a bridge.

Tax cuts are not the answer to all of America's problems. We need to invest in our public infrastructure in this country. The most solid core point of this bill is what we are debating right now, more than $40 billion of investment in the future of America putting our highways and our bridges back in good repair, rebuilding our transit systems, beginning to provide new capacity, to get people more efficiently to work, to avoid the costs of congestion, the costs of the deficient services we suffer.

These are jobs. I heard someone, some bizarre Republican stand up earlier and say something about the difference between work and jobs. This is work that puts Americans to work, and it's jobs, and it rebuilds our country. I don't quite get what point that person was making. And it's not a tax cut. It's real investment.

I can justify borrowing money to build a bridge or a transit system that will serve the next two or three or four or five generations of Americans a lot more than I can justify a tax cut which is gone tomorrow and did nothing to rebuild our future.

They lack vision. In this we will buy American products. ''Buy American'' is the theme of transportation policy in this country. We will buy buses made in America. We will even start buying street cars for the first time made in America.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I yield the gentleman an additional minute.

Mr. DEFAZIO. We are going to rebuild our bridges made with steel in America, concrete sourced in America, labor of American workers. This is the core of this bill. It's not enough, in my opinion, and I have made that clear and made some angry by saying that, as has the chairman.

But it is a good, solid down payment and a solid core for an American recovery with these investments. Stop talking just about one-note tax cuts. They didn't work for George Bush. They are not going to work today. We need to begin real investment and rebuilding our future, transportation infrastructure. This is the core of this bill.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, I yield 15 seconds to the distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. I would point out that it was a Democrat Congress that for decades robbed from the highway trust fund, and it was the Republican Congress, with the Republican President, who insisted for the first time that all the highway fuel dollars would go to actually building highways and bridges in America.

I would note too, Republicans doubled the research and development budget of America, not Democrats.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished chairman of the Republican Conference, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Chairman, it should be evident to anyone looking on tonight, from the passion that's displayed on both sides of the aisle, this is a serious debate. The American people are hurting. Many millions of Americans have lost their jobs and many more are worried that they will be next.

And so we come to this floor tonight to begin a debate on legislation that should, in the best of worlds, be a result of a thorough vetting and a thorough and bipartisan negotiation over what would be, on balance, in the best interests of the American people. But this legislation falls far short of that standard, and I rise to oppose it.

I commend the President of the United States today for coming to Capitol Hill and meeting with House Republicans. It was a frank and cordial discussion. The conversation is not compromised, and the American people deserve to know that Democrats in Congress have completely ignored our new President's call for bipartisanship in the formation of this stimulus bill.

In reality, House Democrats have used this moment of national economic crisis to fund big government priorities under the guise of stimulating the economy. As I told President Obama today, we take him at his word, but we urge him to make good on his pledge to challenge his party to set aside partisan differences and to bring the best ideas from both parties to the table, and this bill does not accomplish that.

The promises of change and bipartisanship ring hollow in the face of a stimulus bill that does little more than fund a wish list of long-standing liberal spending priorities.

I ask, Mr. Chairman, what is $50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts going to do to create jobs in Indiana? What does $200 million to plant sod on the National Mall going to do to put people back to work in your State, or $400 million for climate change research going to do to get America working again.

The truth is the bill that we will consider tomorrow, fashioned entirely by the majority in this House, won't stimulate anything but more government and more debt. The slow and wasteful spending of the House Democrat bill is a disservice to millions of Americans, and Republicans are disappointed, but the American people should be disappointed as well. These are serious times, and what will come to the floor tomorrow is not a serious effort to address this crisis with reform.

Republicans have a plan. We don't claim to have the exclusive right to all the best ideas in the world, but the time-honored tradition of stimulus from this Chamber has always included real and immediate and significant tax relief for working families, small businesses and family farms. Handing out rebate checks this year, like we did last year, will likely have as little result stimulating our economy as it did before.

And so we will take our case to the American people. We may lose on the floor tomorrow, but the American people will have a choice between slow and wasteful government spending and a plan that will bring tax relief to working families and small businesses.

I urge opposition to the bill.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds simply to point out that on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure the Republicans have been engaged fully from

2007 all through 2008 in fashioning a stimulus initiative. Their ideas have been fully engaged and they have participated in hearings and in the crafting of our portion of this bill.

So whatever criticism there may be of other committees, I say it doesn't apply in our Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. In fact, Mr. MICA, my good friend, said our portion is a very good bill.

I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), Chair of the Water Resources Subcommittee.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. I want to thank the Chair of Transportation, as well as the Chair of Appropriations, for the hard work they put into this.

Mr. Chairman, you know I strongly support the underlying bill. I know that I understand it differently than some others here. But if we keep doing the same thing that we have been doing for the last 8 years, we will get the same results. You can't do the same thing and expect the results to change.

The needed funds for our Nation's roads, bridges, transit systems, airport and water-related infrastructure are very much needed. Over the past 2 years, the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment has held numerous hearings on the Nation's water-related infrastructure needs, whether it is the $300 billion to $400 billion investment needed to restore and upgrade our Nation's network of wastewater treatment infrastructure, or the projection of $50 billion to $60 billion for vital projects of the Corps of Engineers.

The water-related infrastructure needs of this Nation are struggling and growing ever longer, and the longer it is put off, the more it will cost.

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Each $1 billion of Federal funds invested in infrastructure creates and sustains approximately 34,000 to 47,000 jobs and $6.2 billion in economic activities. The $3 billion in infrastructure investment funding in the bill for the State of Texas will provide a real tangible benefit to the 700,000 individuals currently unemployed in our State, whether as a paycheck for those responsible for constructing these vital projects or through increased productivity for small businesses that produce the materials needed for these vital infrastructure projects.

These people cannot pay taxes. They don't have jobs.

However, unlike other economic recovery proposals, infrastructure investment provides not only a short-term benefit to American families, it also provides a long-term benefit in terms of sustainable and reliable infrastructure, as well as the potential for increased productivity for the Nation's economy through the efficient movement of goods and services.

It also can enhance the overall quality of the Nation's water-related environment through the implementation of environmental restoration projects by the Corps of Engineers, and through the control of pollutant discharges from combined sewer and sanitary sewer upgrades.

Finally, infrastructure investment provides one of the only benefits that cannot be shipped off to foreign lands. The direct beneficiaries of domestic infrastructure projects are our towns, our local communities, our constituents.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I thank the ranking member for generously yielding to me.

Mr. Chairman, here are a half dozen of many reasons to oppose this legislation. We should wait and gauge the impact of the $350 billion in TARP funds already approved before spending even more. Spending another $825 billion—$6,000 for every taxpayer in America—will inevitably hike inflation and increase taxes, further damaging the economy.

Much of the money will be used to bail out States that have overspent their budget. This rewards bad behavior. What happened to the ''era of responsibility?''

This is not free money. It's a nonsecure loan extracted from the American people. Let them keep the dollars and decide how to spend them. It would be far better to provide tax incentives and investment credits to the small businesses that create 70 percent of all new jobs in America. This massive monstrosity of spending is the wrong kind of change. It will only make the economic crisis wider, deeper, and longer.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the Chair of our Economic Development Subcommittee, the distinguished gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his very important and brilliant work on this bill. I thought I heard my friend talk about putting money in people's pockets. Have you forgotten that is exactly what we did with the last stimulus bill? And, guess what? It went to pay the Saudis, who are now enjoying that. People paid off their high gas bills, they paid down their credit cards. Understand that people are afraid to spend money.

What does this bill do? This is not about ''the economy,'' it's not about ''the bailout.'' This bill is about jobs. What it says is if you give a person not money in his pocket, but a job, you have a better chance of reviving your economy.

The GAO says, indeed, if done properly, a public infrastructure program will pay for itself, and more, over time, by increasing productivity. That is the reason we focus on infrastructure and it's interesting to know that many on the other side are pointing in that direction as well.

I am not against some of the tax cuts, if properly done. But the reason we focus on infrastructure is that it alone has a track record of waking up other parts of the economy. That's what we want to do. This is about jobs. This is not about some generic economy. It is the multiplier effect that we are after. We are after jobs that then create support jobs on down the line. And there is no other expenditure that has been shown to do that as well as infrastructure.

We've got a job to do to make sure, as the chairman says, that this gets done, and gets done quickly. But there can be no debate. Even as we heard testimony, investments in infrastructure have a broader effect and a bigger benefit on the economy than, for example, tax cuts, or any form of tax relief.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN).

Mr. PAULSEN. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased that the President has asked for swift action to spur the economy in the need to usher in a new era of responsibility. I also agree that Congress must act immediately to help get our economy back on track.

My concern with the bill that we are addressing here tonight is that it is acting irresponsibly. This stimulus bill has essentially now turned into a supplemental spending bill. The budget deficit is already more than $1 trillion this year alone. What is Congress proposing? More borrowing and more spending.

After this bill passes, Mr. Chairman, the annual budget deficit will surpass $2 trillion in just 1 year. Just this 1 year. An economic stimulus should be quick and it should be immediate. However, the recent analysis by the Congressional Budget Office shows that only 7 to 8 percent of the infrastructure spending, which is valuable in this plan, will be delivered in the economy in the first year alone, and less than half will be spent in the first 2 years.

Mr. Chair, a real fiscal stimulus is one that will put people back to work and focuses like a laser beam to help protect and preserve and, most importantly, create jobs. Why aren't we focusing tonight on helping small businesses do what they do best?

We need to make sure that we are allowing those small businesses, the entrepreneurs, the risk-takers, the innovators, and the self-employed, do what they do best, and that is create jobs. Unfortunately, this bill has become a grab bag of special interest spending, and many of these may be some worthwhile projects, but they should not be snuck into a stimulus bill.

Instead, let's focus on changing politics as usual and working together and finding real solutions to put people back to work.

Mr. OBERSTAR. How much time remains?

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Minnesota has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. OBERSTAR. I yield the remaining time to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. As a new Member of this body, this is going to be one of the most important votes I cast. And to hear some of the rhetoric tonight from the other side makes one think of Charles Dickens. Are there no workhouses?

We are in the worst economic meltdown in 76 years. The middle class is crying for relief. We are on a precipice, and this body must act. I feel dutybound to cast my vote in favor of this legislation because it is action. It is designed to spur infrastructure. It is designed to provide middle-class tax relief.

And when I hear language of special interest, I wonder if we mean by that our State and local governments that are hemorrhaging red ink and need the relief contained in this legislation. As someone who's just come from local government, I know firsthand how every State and every locality in this country is hurting.

I intend to support this legislation, especially the infrastructure provisions in it that will get people back to work and spur local economies.

Mr. CAMP. At this time, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE).

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I am interested in the comment just made by the gentleman from Northern Virginia, Mr. CONNOLLY. If the gentleman would take a question, I'd be pleased to yield to him for an answer.

Mr. CONNOLLY, would you be interested in taking a question? I was interested in your comments, because you said, Mr. CONNOLLY from Northern Virginia——

The CHAIR. The gentleman will address the Chair, please.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Chair, the gentleman said these are the worst economic times, and this will stimulate infrastructure. I was wondering if the gentleman was aware that only 7 percent, or $26 billion of the $274 billion in infrastructure money, will be spent by the end of this budget year. And adding the interest, this stimulus, which will exceed $1.1 trillion, will cost each and every American $3,300 in this economy.

Does the gentleman think that that is a wise idea? I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Chair, if I understand the gentleman's question, first of all, I think his numbers are not correct, if I look at the Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. I think it's considerably more than the number the gentleman has cited.

I also think the gentleman fails to recognize that there's cumulatively $120 billion of relief for State and local governments. I would also point out to him that every State and every locality virtually in this country is hemorrhaging red ink.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, and I would ask the gentleman to tell the House if he believes that in this worst economy that it's appropriate to put in place a policy that makes it so that each and every American is liable for $3,300 more; $3,300 more for each and every single American. Is that an appropriate policy to be put in place at this time, I would ask the gentleman.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I don't believe that is the appropriate question.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman. That is indeed the appropriate question. And that is why you hear individuals on our side of the aisle fighting on behalf of the American taxpayer, fighting on behalf of American jobs, fighting on behalf of appropriate policy that will in fact stimulate the economy.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I think the opposite is true. I think the gentleman is fighting for policies that prove to be a failure.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Georgia has control of the time.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. We all want our economy to turn around. The question really isn't is this too much or too big, although I believe it to be. The question is, Will it work, and, What else is in this bill?

I want to highlight an item that is buried in this bill. The Comparative Effectiveness Research Council. $1.1 billion for this board. In the language, it states, regarding health care, ''Those items, procedures and interventions that are most effective to prevent, control, and treat health conditions will be utilized, while those no longer found to be effective and, in some cases, more expensive, will no longer be prescribed.''

Mr. Chairman, this is the beginning and the foundation of nationalized health care.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CAMP. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank the gentleman. In fact, the Secretary of Health and Human Services said in his book that this body would have recommendations that may not have teeth because all Federal health programs would have to abide by them. But Congress would go back and further the board's recommendations. It could, for example, link the tax exclusion for health insurance to insurance companies that comply with the board's recommendations.

Mr. Chairman, this is indeed the foundation of rationing of American health care for each and every American. Not only will there be no stimulus in this bill, there will be major policy changes to health care; nationalized health care on its way, courtesy of the majority party.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. GIFFORDS) now controls 5 minutes of the time.

Ms. GIFFORDS. I'd like to thank Chairman OBEY as well for all his work, and members of the committee on both sides of this bill, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a member of the Science and Technology Committee, it's my great privilege to work with Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL to advance our Nation's capabilities in scientific research and technological innovation.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act contains critical funding for the National Science Foundation, the Office of Science at the Department of Energy, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and NASA. It also includes significant funding for research and development in advanced energy technologies.

These critical investments will create high-quality jobs, strengthen our economic competitiveness, and improve access to clean, affordable energy.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. I'd like to inquire of the Chair the time remaining.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Michigan has 28 minutes remaining.

Mr. CAMP. And on the other side?

The CHAIR. The gentleman has 51 minutes.

Mr. CAMP. At this time we will reserve our time until it becomes a little more balanced, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. GIFFORDS. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU).

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Mr. WU. I thank the gentlelady, and I rise in support of the underlying legislation.

I want to commend President Obama, his administration, Speaker PELOSI, Chairman OBEY and Chairman GORDON for their leadership and commitment to ensure that this bill provides strong funding for science, technology, and long-term economic growth in order to get our economy back on track. We need to rebuild from the ground up. We need to invest in research that will create the jobs of the 21st century, including those jobs in health information technology.

Health IT has the potential to reduce medical errors, decrease inefficient, unnecessary, duplicative treatments that cost our health care system $300 billion annually. Health IT should lower our health care costs while improving the quality and safety of care. Health IT is economic stimulus.

However, one study states that more than 40,000 health care IT workers will be needed in health care facilities, and jobs already exist in this field. We just need qualified workers. Without the staff needed, our investments in health IT will do little to meet the potential of this field. That is why I am happy to see the provisions of the 10,000 Trained by 2010 Act, a bill that I introduced, are included as part of this legislation. My legislation helps train individuals

in health IT, and provides the seed corn to create the jobs of our new economy in a field that will help curb the cost of health care for years to come. I urge my colleagues to support the provision and the legislation.

Mr. CAMP. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I think when I yielded time earlier in the day, I shortchanged the gentlewoman from Arizona (Ms. GIFFORDS) by 5 minutes. I would like to yield an additional 5 minutes of my time to her.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman will control an additional 5 minutes of the time.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Chairman, I now yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Ms. EDWARDS).

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Bill of 2009.

We are entering a new era of job creation through science, research, and technology, and this bill makes timely targeted investments to create high-quality jobs, strengthen American competitiveness, and improve access to clean affordable energy.

The bill allocates funds to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which is in my congressional district in Maryland, for competitive construction grants for research science buildings at colleges, universities, and other research organizations and to coordinate research efforts of laboratories and national research facilities by setting standards for manufacturing.

The bill also allocates funds to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to put more scientists to work doing climate change, important climate change research, including earth science recommended by the National Academies, satellite sensors that measure solar radiation critical to understanding climate change.

I am proud that this bill includes $10 billion for science research facilities and instrumentation, to focus American brain power and education on solving the energy and climate challenges.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. GIFFORDS. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. This is an investment for the 21st century. It is for our children, it is for our grandchildren. I applaud Chairman GORDON and the House leadership for making these investments, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill. This is about the future.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Chairman, I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO).

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Chairman, I represent the capital region of New York State, an area which, led by Thomas Edison, pioneered a revolution in electricity which changed our society a century ago. I believe it is with that spirit that we look to take bold action with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

This package contains some $4 billion for job training, which is essential to preparing the American workers to compete for the jobs of the future. It also contains $2 billion for alternative energy research, and $11 billion to develop and build the next generation energy grid. These are crucial investments that will create high-paying jobs right now and make our country more secure and energy efficient into the future.

In these difficult economic times, we must not forget our commitment to our children and grandchildren. The stimulus bill will provide over $140 billion to make sure that our education system can move forward into the 21st century. We must act now and boldly to move our country in the right direction and to provide relief for our overburdened working families.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time we have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman has 4½ minutes remaining.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Chairman, I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOCCIERI).

(Mr. BOCCIERI asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Chairman, the people of Ohio's 16th District elected me to fight for them and their tax dollars. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is about putting America first. It is about investing in our country. Some on the other side didn't bat an eye when they voted to use American tax dollars to rebuild Iraq, spending billions on new roads and bridges there. There was no outrage during those spending days.

Our people are hurting. Our people are struggling and asking us for leadership. It is time to put partisanship aside. In this time of great need, investing in our schools, our roads, our bridges is about making America stronger. Ohio will receive a much-needed economic boost with these resources, and we will invest in the future of our country. Ohio needs the estimated $1.5 billion in infrastructure improvements to help create jobs. Creating jobs in alternative energy like fuel cells or plug-in hybrids being researched in my district will move us away from the dependence on foreign oil. This bill will help America innovate and invest in the jobs of tomorrow.

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Chairman, I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. PETERS).

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 1. This recovery package supports the development of new advanced vehicle technologies that will lower emissions, improve fuel economy, and create new jobs across the country. This bill includes $2 billion to build new manufacturing facilities for the kinds of advanced vehicle batteries and battery components that will power the next generation of vehicles.

We are facing a global credit crisis, and auto companies around the world are struggling. Foreign governments are taking dramatic steps to help their own auto companies. If we are going to ensure the next generation of green manufacturing jobs are created here in the United States, we have to invest now in these advanced technologies. This bill helps ensure that we do not trade our dependence on foreign oil for a dependence on foreign batteries and other technologies.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is good for Michigan and it is good for America. I urge its passage here today.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON).

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the so-called stimulus bill for a number of reasons, both process and procedural. On the process, we had 1 day to consider 270 pages of text in the Energy and Commerce Committee. Five Republican amendments were accepted during the markup; three of those five were stricken from the bill before it came to the floor, and the fourth one, which is in the bill, is in the bill in a different form than which it was agreed upon during the negotiations during the markup. I don't think that is really good form.

On the substance of the bill, most of the Energy and Commerce title is really social program policy and spending. It may be good, but it is not stimulative in and of itself in terms of what we are here to do.

There is one title in the energy section which I think my friends on the majority side need to know about; it is something called decoupling. It gives a utility the right to petition a State that if the consumers in that State do all these energy efficient measures and they decrease their use of electricity, by decoupling what the consumers pay for it the utility has a revenue guarantee: Use less, pay more. I mean, as insane as that sounds, it is in this bill. I offered an amendment to strike that from the bill in the committee and it was on a party line vote rejected. Every Democrat voted to keep that in the bill; every Republican voted to remove it.

So if this actually becomes law, if a governor of a State acts positively on a petition from a utility in that State, the utility can decouple what it charges your voters for what you pay for electricity regardless of how much you use. If somebody cuts their electricity use 20 percent, they pay the same. Now, I don't know about most voters, but I know my voters, if they

conserve and consume less electricity, they want to pay less; but under this bill, they are going to pay more. How is that stimulative to the economy? I think that is actually destructive of the economy.

So, Mr. Chairman, with all due respect, while there is some good in this bill, there is so much that is really not stimulative, and there is some stuff that is just really harmful that we should vote ''no.''

There is one other thing. Under this bill, they struck the amendment by Mr. STEARNS that says if a millionaire wants to get on COBRA and get his health care paid for two-thirds of the premium, he has got to prove that he is not a millionaire, that he doesn't have income and he doesn't have assets. They accepted that on a voice vote in the committee, but they struck it out. So there is no income test, there is no means test. Basically, Mr. Madoff, who just defrauded billions and billions of dollars, is going to be eligible for COBRA assistance under this bill. Vote ''no.''

Ms. GIFFORDS. Mr. Chairman, I now yield myself such time as I may consume.

As a Representative from the State of Arizona, the State that is the most abundant State in terms of sunshine, I would like to take the remainder of the time to talk about my support for solar power.

A strong solar power industry is going to create good jobs, it is going to increase our competitiveness internationally, and it is also going to help us reduce the threat of climate change. This form of renewable energy is going to be good for our economy, it is absolutely going to create much-needed jobs, and it is really going to focus on that next 21st century economy. It is going to really focus on our future. So I am pleased that this legislation includes some solar investments such as research and basic science, basic energy science, as well as applied research and development. The bill also includes critical funding for critical research into advanced transmission and energy storage technologies, what Representative PETERS from Michigan spoke of earlier.

Innovation in these two areas is essential to unlocking solar power's full potential. But that is not all that is included in this bill. We also are looking at language that contains critical financial incentives to support the development of solar power generating facilities. These provisions offer direct grants to qualified renewable energy products in lieu of the investment tax credits, also known as the ITC.

In the current economic downturn, the ITC cannot achieve its full potential, because many entities that would like to invest in solar power do not have taxable income. Therefore, this grant program is essential.

Unfortunately, the grant programs application is limited. It falls short of supporting large-scale solar projects with long lead times. We have seen many of these projects proposed throughout the Southwest and in other areas. That is why I have offered an amendment to expand this provision to include the large solar projects with the greatest potential to boost our economy. They are going to maximize job creation, foster greater investments and dramatically expand the amount of power our Nation gets from solar energy.

So as this bill moves forward, I urge the House and Senate to consider this amendment. We have this opportunity to take advantage and facilitate large and small scale projects. I would like us to help achieve President Obama's goal of doubling our Nation's renewable power capacity over the next 3 years. We are looking at 40,000 new jobs and $8 billion in investment. This is exactly the kind of bold action our Nation needs.

I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

Mr. CAMP. I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the chairwoman of the Small Business Administration, now controls 5 minutes of the time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. I rise in support of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which will help restore stability to our weakened economy and drive growth within the small business community.

Mr. Chairman, in a recent hearing my committee met an entrepreneur, Thomas Rankin, whose 83-year-old family business, Ramer Lumber, had managed to weather the great Depression but wasn't able to survive the current downturn. This past November, his business closed its door for good.

All across the country, countless small business firms are facing the same fate. Recovery efforts enacted last fall have not trickled down to Main Street. From Mom and Pop restaurants to technology startups, small firms of every kind are suffering. What we need now are solutions that work for entrepreneurs. After all, they are the ones that are promoting growth and they are the ones with a proven track record of creating jobs.

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But, unfortunately, a combination of restrictive lending and tightening credit has stunted small business growth, preventing entrepreneurs from playing their historic role of economic catalyst.

The Recovery and Reinvestment Act will help turn the tide. To begin with, $30 billion in targeted tax measures would allow struggling startups to stay afloat. For example, the bill will repeal the burdensome 3 percent withholding requirement for government contractors and allow for enhanced expensing for small businesses' purchases. For cash-strapped entrepreneurs, these initiatives could make the difference between meeting payroll and making layoffs.

The Recovery and Reinvestment Act also promises to thaw frozen small business lending and increase guaranties for new loans. At the same time, it will reopen the secondary market which has ground to a halt. Taken all together, these initiatives will put $13 billion into the hands of small businesses immediately, allowing entrepreneurs to do what they do best, create jobs. Small business lending provisions within the Recovery and Reinvestment Act will keep and create over 400,000 jobs. And at the end of the day, that is what small businesses do best, create jobs.

With unemployment at a 16-year high, let's not kid ourselves. There can be no recovery without job creation. That is why it is so critical that entrepreneurs have the resources they need to not just survive the downturn but to emerge from it stronger and ready to bring our economy back on track.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Chairman, I want to say thank you to my colleagues who are joining me on the floor to fight this stimulus bill that we have before us. Actually, using ''stimulus'' on this piece of legislation is an incorrect term, because when we look at this, what we have learned today is primarily that this is just another spending bill.

I find it so interesting. I don't know if my colleagues have had the opportunity to look at what the information we've had from the Congressional Budget Office, the CBO. And I know time and again, when we were in the majority, you all would take the CBO figures as the gospel. So it's a little bit of a head scratcher to us. You want to say you have a stimulus bill. But it's a spending bill. It's going to cost $1.1 trillion when you add the interest. But, interestingly enough, Mr. Chairman, that money doesn't go into the economy quickly. And I think that is what our constituents are so interested to learn.

Out of this $836 billion, and you add the interest in and you are at $1.16 trillion, now, $92 billion of that is released within the next 12 months. That is 2009 money. And then in 2010 you get another $225 billion, and in 2011 you get $159 billion.

Well, Mr. Chairman, ''stimulus'' means something immediate that is targeted, that is focused and that is going to address a problem. And we don't see that in this piece of legislation.

It is more spending on top of more spending. It is $50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts. It is $16 billion for Pell Grants. It is $2.1 billion for Head Start. It is $200 million for the National Mall. That is not stimulus.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. CAMP. I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. That is not stimulus. That is government spending. That is growth of government problems. If you want to stimulate the economy, reduce taxes and leave money with the taxpayers, pay attention to small business and listen to their needs.

Mr. Chairman, my colleagues, the Democrats in Congress are building a ''Bridge to Bankruptcy'' for a lot of small businesses, for a lot of American families and for the U.S. government.

I urge my colleagues to stand strongly against H.R. 1.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from Illinois (Mrs. HALVORSON).

Mrs. HALVORSON. Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ for the opportunity to speak on this matter of utmost importance to the American people. Nothing is more critical at this moment in time than creating jobs. Days ago I learned that an important employer in my district is cutting 20,000 jobs. This is terrifying news to many of my constituents because each lost job forces a family to make difficult decisions. Health insurance becomes more difficult to maintain. College costs become more overwhelming. Mortgage payments become impossible to meet. It's clear we must act decisively, immediately, and on a scale that is bold, innovative and that will create new jobs to grow our economy.

It's critical that we invest in American infrastructure, including schools, energy, technology and small businesses. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will do exactly that.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, I reserve my time.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New York has 1 minute remaining.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Chairman, as a result of restricting lending and vanishing credit, small firms spanning every sector are folding at alarming rates. This is particularly troubling because they comprise 95 percent of American industry and employ half of the private sector workforce.

When these businesses disappear, so do many millions of American jobs. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act offers an opportunity to keep the jobs we still have and to create hundreds of thousands more. Just as importantly, it is an investment in our Nation's entrepreneurs, the people creating jobs, driving innovation and strengthening the backbone of our economy.

I urge the adoption of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAMP. I continue to reserve.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) controls the next 5 minutes.

Mr. SPRATT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we can debate this bill endlessly tonight, but no one can contest this point, this fact; we are in the midst of the greatest, longest and deepest recession since the Great Depression.

The question before us is simply this: Will we act, act now and act boldly in an effort to restore our economy to a healthy status, or will we run the risk that this recession will become even deeper and longer?

Now, I know that some doubt or disdain the steps taken so far by the government. Let me say up until a week ago that government was the Bush administration. I know that some question whether or not these steps have done any good. But let's go back to September and October. We witnessed a complete collapse of confidence in the global financial system and a wrenching credit crunch for corporate and consumer borrowers both. The spread between the 3-month LIBOR, the London Interbank Lending Rate, and 3-month Treasuries, which is a proxy for the willingness of banks to lend money, reached 360 basis points, 3.6 percent. Many feared, with good reason, that we would soon be in a cash-and-carry economy.

We passed the bill which provided additional liquidity. It hasn't accomplished all we hoped it would. But the spread that I just mentioned has fallen from 360 basis points to 100 basis points, still double the normal spread, but that is a big improvement and one clear indication that government actions have produced some good effect. Sure, they are not lending as much as we would like. Financing for consumer durables like autos and homes is not where we'd like it to be. But we are a lot better off than we would have been if the government had not intervened.

Now, I know some recoil at the enormous costs we are incurring. And I'll be frank with you, I find it stunning. $825 billion. But the cost of doing nothing is not zero. Far from it. What is the cost of doing nothing? Well, the CBO tells us that the cost of doing nothing, nothing tonight, nothing further, could be as much as a 2.2 percent contraction in GDP over 2009, the current year, and an unemployment rate climbing to 9 to 10 percent. Other forecasters predict even worse. We had several before our committee today. Mark Zandi of Moody's Economy.Com forecasted today a 3.4 percent contraction in the economy in 2009 with unemployment soaring to 11 percent next year.

Still people say, well, why does the government need to respond? Why can't we let this recession, like others in the past, run its course and self-correct? Well, our economy is up against some major head winds. Consumers have cut spending because their principal asset, their home, has plummeted in value by 20 percent, and some say it may go 20 percent more before we reach a reasonable trend line. There are huge overhangs in the real estate market. Real estate may have led us out of past recessions, but not this one. Nor will automotives. If anything, they are in deeper doldrums. With credit shrinking and retail sales falling, it is unlikely that the manufacturing sector will step up the production of goods for which there is little market. Finally, with the Fed fund rates at virtually zero, monetary policy is at the end of its tether.

What is left, if we were to do something, if we were to intervene, if we were to restore health to our economy? A major fiscal response by the government is the only viable option left on the table.

Now, what could a $825 billion stimulus bill accomplish? CBO forecasts an economy in 2009 or GDP equal to $14.2 trillion if we don't act. That is an economy operating at 6.8 percent less than its reasonable capacity, its potential. CBO predicts the same for 2010. My friend, that is a gap of nearly $1 trillion in potential production, goods and services that people in this country could enjoy and use, $1 trillion a year if we don't act.

According to CBO, the recovery bill will raise output between 1.3 percent and 3.6 percent by the end of this year. If we take the middle of that range, 2.5 percent, that is an additional $350 billion worth of goods and services purchased which businesses will then generate into several million badly-needed jobs.

A recovery bill that invests in America and begins to repair our stock of capital will yield dividends down the road. If investing in our schools, our children, our workforce, our roads, our bridges, our ports, our schools, our waterways, our transit and our scientific and technological base did not produce solid economic returns, how would our Nation have ever emerged to lead the world.

I urge everyone to support H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN).

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for yielding and for the fine work that he is doing on these moments that we have together.

One guarantee that we do have from the stimulus bill that we can count on, that we can take to the bank, on which there will be no disagreement and no dissent is this: If we pass this $825 billion stimulus tomorrow, and it seems to be a certain thing because the majority has the votes, and if we add to that the debt service which would be over $300 billion added on top of that, bringing us to a total of over $1.1 trillion, the certainty, the guarantee that

we will take to the bank, that we will need to look at the American people straight in the eye and be four square honest in telling them is this: You will encounter punishingly high tax increases at every level of the economic spectrum. It's a given. We have to.

Why can we say this with certainty? Because someone has to pay this bill. When you go out to eat, the check comes and someone has to pay for it. Maybe a nice person at the other table will pay for your check. But at the end of the day, someone is paying that check. And it's the American people that are paying for this party.

Make no mistake. This stimulus bill has very little to do with stimulating the economy and helping the average American. This is a bailout for big government. And let's get ready. We are looking at massive tax increases and we are looking at massive inflation or both. In fact, we could be looking at hyperinflation.

I don't want to be ''Debbie Downer'' bringing bad news to the American public, but it's a certainty. If you spend money at this level, and consider we are spending almost as much money on this stimulus bill as we will spend in our discretionary spending, take it to the bank. That is our future.

Mr. Chairman, the legislation under consideration today will saddle generations of taxpayers with hundreds of billions of dollars of debt and will, I fear, not lead this country to real economic recovery.

The Democrats' bill has a starting price of $825 billion—enough money to give every person living in poverty in the United States $22,000.

In fact, the total cost of this one piece of legislation is almost as much as the annual discretionary budget for the entire Federal Government.

To make matters worse, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the real cost of the legislation will be more than $1 trillion.

CBO reports that if Congress borrows more than $800 billion, it will burden future generations with an additional $347 billion in interest payments. That totals more than $1.1 trillion.

And, regrettably, that total includes frivolous spending on items such as $600 million for new cars for the Federal Government and $21 million for sod to fill in the mall after the inauguration.

We must not forget our responsibility to the taxpayer simply because we label something a crisis or even a response to a crisis.

The Democrats' have tried to sell this proposal as a transportation and infrastructure investment package. And, I'm all for investing in rebuilding our Nation's roads and bridges and believe that government spending on transportation infrastructure projects is absolutely important.

However, only $30 billion of the bill—or three percent—is for road and highway spending. And, CBO states that much of this spending will take several years to make any stimulative impact.

My constituents understand that we cannot spend our way to prosperity and that serious consequences lie ahead if Congress goes down this irresponsible borrow-and-spend path.

What the American people really need are long-term, permanent tax cuts which will impact families twice as fast as the Democrats' government spending in this bill. These tax cuts will spur job creation and help stabilize the economy over the long run.

I support much-needed, incentive-based relief for small businesses, the job-creators and the backbone of our economy, and I believe we must reduce the financial burden that the Federal Government imposes on middle-class families.

I'm a cosponsor of the Economic Recovery and Middle-Class Tax Relief Act, which is a real economic recovery plan that has NO welfare spending, NO pork-barrel spending, and NO bailouts.

This package would immediately inject private capital into our economy and at the same time, it would lay the groundwork for sustained economic growth.

It includes a permanent 5 percent across-the-board income tax cut. It increases, and makes permanent, the child tax credit to $5,000 and makes the lower 15 percent capital gains and dividends rates permanent.

It repeals the Alternative Minimum Tax, AMT, on individuals—a punitive and outdated relic of a tax which will hit more than 30 million people in 2009.

It permanently repeals required distributions on retirement accounts and makes all withdrawals from IRAs tax- and penalty-free during 2009. And, it increases by 50 percent the tax deduction on student loans and on qualified higher education expenses.

These are just some of the key initiatives of this legislation.

We have seen the mistakes of tax-and-spend government policies in the past and know that they will not lead to long-term economic growth and recovery.

We must implement real, permanent tax relief for American families and stop this Washington spending spree that will burden many generations to come.

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Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN).

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to this spending bill that is before us.

I spent 12 hours in the Energy and Commerce Committee where we marked up our portion of this legislation, and I think there were some real amazing things in this bill that maybe some people on this floor don't know about. I was going to ask the gentlelady from Illinois (Mrs. HALVORSON) about it because she mentioned insurance. In here is a provision for the taxpayers in my district who are still working to support insurance payments up to 65 percent for those who may lose their jobs.

In the Energy and Commerce Committee, we passed an amendment in a bipartisan way to say that millionaires who made a million bucks last year, you don't have to have my taxpayers support your COBRA payments. Unfortunately, somewhere along the mystical way that this bill came to the floor, that bipartisan amendment got stripped out. So now you could be Madoff, I suppose, and get your COBRA paid for.

There is a recoupling provision in here on energy that I think is one of the most perverse things I have ever heard of; that if my constituents invest in energy conservation in their homes to reduce their energy consumption, which is good for the environment and good for their wallets, if you vote for this, you are going to vote to say the utility companies can raise their rates to make up the lost revenue. So this puts utility company revenues ahead of consumers in States, Massachusetts, Oregon, the other 48 States and the territories. You are going to encourage them on the one hand to conserve on energy, and on the other hand you are going to grant this new authority so the utility companies can raise their electricity or gas rates.

This is an enormous borrowing bill. This is making the Federal Government the next subprime lender. Why else is it for the first time I believe in our country's history there is now an insurance product available on U.S. securities? Why? Because people are starting around the world to say we are not so sure about America.

I am trying to figure out, and maybe the gentleman on the other side of the aisle can answer, who is going to loan us this money? Have we ever gone to the market for $2 trillion to $3 trillion?

The CHAIR. The Chair understands the gentleman from Michigan is the remaining speaker on this side. The gentleman from Wisconsin has the right to close.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, we have one remaining speaker in addition to myself.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I have two remaining speakers on this side.

First, I would like to redesignate the time previously allocated to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform to the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. SHEA-PORTER) of the Education and Labor Committee, 2 minutes.

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. This legislation is necessary to rebuild our economy. Like other States, my State of New Hampshire has been hit hard by the Nation's economic crisis. Our unemployment rate has risen, foreclosures have increased, and the State is facing a very serious budget shortfall.

Over the past few weeks, I have traveled throughout my district talking to local officials, business owners, and other constituents. In each meeting I have attended, the main theme is the same: infrastructure and jobs, infrastructure and jobs.

In Dover, we talked about the need to replace some of the water and sewer piping of a system that has been in existence since the late 19th century.

In Portsmouth, we discovered the need to invest in the water treatment plant to guarantee safe drinking water into the future.

In Manchester, the largest city in New Hampshire, I heard from the board

of aldermen about the crucial need for transportation funding.

In North Conway, I heard from town officials whose projects were not only necessary for public safety, but were forward-thinking, incorporating green energy technology.

The infrastructure investments in this bill are essential for the current and future health of our economy. We cannot fund every worthy project, but we will create and save jobs in New Hampshire and across the Nation.

I am very hopeful that these funds, like the investment that was made in Dover more than a century ago, will be used to make investments and infrastructure improvements that will leave real, meaningful and lasting results for our communities. After all, we are borrowing money, money that future generations of Americans will have to pay back. I hope that they will be able to see tangible benefits for their money.

So many Americans families are hurting. We must not only acknowledge their pain, we must help them recover. This package will help them recover. This package will help America recover. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. CAMP. I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE).

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this enormous economic stimulus package. To put its size in perspective, one-tenth of 1 percent of the stimulus would solve Tennessee's State budget deficit.

To quote one of my favorite baseball philosophers, Yogi Berra, if you don't know where you're going, you might end up someplace else. I think with this bill we are going to end up someplace else.

We know that this spending is enormous. The question is, is it going to work? This past week the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office cast doubt on whether this is going to be effective when it said only 7 percent of the plan's infrastructure spending would be spent by the end of the first fiscal year, and only 65 percent of the total package would be spent by 2010. I as a previous mayor support infrastructure spending.

Even more troubling for taxpayers is where their money is going. We were about to spend $50 million on the National Endowment of the Arts. Whatever one believes about spending taxpayer dollars on the arts, shouldn't we all be able to agree it should not be done when the country is facing a trillion dollar deficit and that it is not economic stimulus.

Until it was exposed, this so-called economic stimulus bill was spending millions on birth control.

People back in Tennessee are adapting to this troubling economic climate by tightening their belts and clamping down on unnecessary spending, and so they are understandably upset that the Federal Government's reaction is exactly the opposite. They are amazed that we preparing to spend an additional $825 billion of their money after a $700 billion bailout was spent without anybody being able to give a straight answer as to where the money went. They are skeptical of the results we are getting, and so am I. An economic stimulus project should fund projects that stimulate the economy, create jobs with long-term economic growth, not as a short-term fix.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, the American people have been paying for the Republicans' party for the last 8 years. It is time now to get back to America's middle class. I rise in support of this economic recovery plan. It is a bold plan. It creates jobs and moves to long-term growth. We must act now to help a middle class hit hard by job insecurity, stagnant wages, rising health care costs, and a financial market in crisis. We have an urgent responsibility to invest wisely, target limited resources to proven initiatives that we know will boost employment, support economic growth, and provide critical relief.

That means expanding eligibility of the child tax credit by reducing the threshold from $12,000 to zero. Over 16 million children would benefit. It means child care, Head Start, a serious infusion of resources to No Child Left Behind, and IDEA, investing in our long-term growth so future generations can compete. There is $40 billion for infrastructure funding, transit funding, additional billions for water, housing and school projects to put Americans back to work at a time when we are facing staggering unemployment.

We need to put the resources in the hands of people most likely to spend them quickly. There is $100 billion in unemployment benefits and job training, $27 billion for rural development through health care, public safety services, and an additional $150 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program, supporting food banks stretched thin by rising food prices and surging demands.

Anyone looking for immediate and significant impact need look no further than Food Stamps, which generate $1.73 in new economic activity for every dollar invested.

This bill provides $20 billion to increase the Food Stamp benefit which could reach 14 million households less than a month after the bill is enacted. Leading economists have said that increasing Food Stamps is one of the most efficient ways to prime the economy's pump, and it also helps part-time workers.

No investments are more critical than those we have to make in human capital. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, our economy is in a recession and we must act. The question, however, is what action do we take. The President has directly challenged us to put aside partisanship and find an American solution.

I was pleased to meet with the President today and ask about including new provisions in this bill. Frankly, what we saw from the President today was a greater effort to reach out to Republicans than we have seen from the House majority.

Mr. Chairman, the American people know we cannot spend our way to prosperity. What was once an $825 billion ''stimulus'' bill has now grown to be $1.1 trillion.

The American people know that adding $1.1 trillion to the deficit for new spending on old government programs will not create jobs. They know small businesses create jobs, not the Federal Government. And they know families can better manage their budgets than the Federal Government.

So as we go through this debate, we will point out some very simple facts about how effective Federal spending is versus tax cuts in creating real private sector job growth.

Just yesterday, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office released its review of the spending in the House Democrats' proposed ''economic stimulus'' legislation. This CBO review confirms what Republicans have been saying all along: the Democrat package won't stimulate the economy now when it needs it most.

The primary reason is, the Democrat plan relies too heavily on slow government spending initiatives, not tax cuts to do the job. As seen in the chart next to me, even the Democrat stimulus bill proves tax cuts impact families and the economy twice as fast as government spending.

CBO went on to say reductions in Federal taxes would have most of their effects in 2009 and 2010, but purchases of good and services, either directly or in the form of grants to States and local government, would take several years to complete.

Worse yet, CBO expects that the rate of spending in 2009 would be considerably slower than historical rates of spending, and many of the larger projects initiated would take up to 5 to 7 years to complete.

The bottom line is this, Mr. Chairman: The nonpartisan CBO confirms that tax cuts get more money into the hands of American families and our economy faster than government spending. The American people know that tax cuts are a better way to stimulate the economy than borrowing money from China just to increase Federal spending and raise the Federal deficit.

If the Speaker was interested in answering the President's call to reach a bipartisan American solution to this crisis, she would work with Republicans to increase tax relief for every working American.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, this has been in many ways a very sad debate. We face the prospect of economic collapse. We certainly face the worst economic crisis in our lifetime. We have been asked by the President to pass legislation that will try to put people back to work by repairing schools, by building roads, by developing modern energy grids, and by making broadband available to rural America. We have been asked to invest in science and technology to make our economy more efficient and more productive and more conducive to job growth. And we have been asked to invest money to make our health care system less costly and more efficient and more open to more people.

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We've also been asked to provide assistance to people who have lost their jobs through unemployment insurance, and by helping them to meet the cost of education, especially college.

And we've also been asked to take actions to help stabilize State and local budgets so that while we try to expand the economy at the national level we aren't shrinking the economy at the State level through unfortunate State tax increases or service cutbacks. That's what we're trying to do.

This is serious business. And yet when you look at much of the debate that we had today, you would think that we were playing a game of Trivial Pursuit. We've had at least 10 Members of this body on the other side of the aisle focus on the really big picture by complaining about the fact that there is a $50 million appropriation for the arts or, can you imagine, because we have the temerity to want to try to repair the Jefferson Monument to prevent the plaza on the Mall from sinking into the Tidal Basin. It is really sad, indeed.

I wonder why it's come to this. And then I recall a statement by a member of the House Republican leadership in which he advised his caucus members to deal with their minority status by behaving like a thousand mosquitos and apparently inflicting mosquito bites on the majority.

We've had a lot of Republican talk about bipartisanship, which was welcomed; but yet before President Obama even was able to appear before the Republican Caucus today we are told in newspaper stories that one of the key leaders in the Republican Caucus advised their Caucus even before the President came——

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. OBEY. I yield myself 2 minutes.

And yet we're told that the Republican Caucus was advised to vote against this bill by one of their leaders.

I think the public will see through this. It doesn't matter much what we say to each other or how we talk to one another. It should, but apparently it doesn't. All I can say is we have a serious job before us. We have had many ideas expressed for many months, but the time for talk is over. We need to make decisions. And right now, like it or not, the only comprehensive package before us, the only balanced package before us is the one being brought to us in this bill today. And I would hope that tomorrow, when we vote on it, that there will be significant bipartisan support for that package. I don't know if I have any real expectations that will occur or not, but I would certainly like to think so.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chair, I would like to address H. Res. 88, the rule providing for consideration of the ''American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009'' and the bill itself. I believe the H. Res. 88 can be supported by every Member of the House.

Mr. Chair, just yesterday the Associated Press reported that tens of thousands of Americans will be losing their jobs. This news was on top of the 2.6 million jobs lost last year under the old Bush Administration. Some of the biggest names in industry have announced layoffs yesterday, from Sprint Nextel, Caterpillar, Home Depot, to GM, all of these companies have announced thousands of layoffs.

Experts believe that without intervention, unemployment will rise to 8.8 percent, the highest since 1983, and it is reported that the worst business conditions in greater than 20 years will exist.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will result in infusing greater than $850 billion into America's ailing economy. With this economic recovery plan, there will be 4 million more jobs and an unemployment rate that will be 2 percentage points lower by the end of 2010. Moreover, H. Res. 88 provides for unprecedented accountability and transparency measures that are built into the legislation to help ensure that tax dollars are spent wisely. $550 billion is strategically targeted to priority investments; $275 billion in targeted tax cuts will also help spur economic recovery. All of these laudable aims are achieved without earmarks. This Act represents the culmination of priorities shared with the new Obama administration and is sure to help America's economy in the long term.

AMENDMENTS

I would have offered the following four amendments to the underlying bill, H.R. 1.

AMENDMENT 1

First, I would have offered several amendments that specifically addressed the issue of funding for parklands, either rural or urban in the bill. I would have made clear that the funding in the bill in Title VIII does not preclude the use of the funding ''for the restoration, creation, or maintenance of local and community parks, including urban and rural parks.''

The inclusion of such language would make eminently clear the Congress's intent to work on green spaces and the creation of green jobs in a new America. This is a priority already articulated by the present Obama administration and that would be appropriately mirrored here in this legislation.

AMENDMENT 2

Second, I would have offered an amendment that allowed local parks and recreation facilities to be provided with $125 million for construction, improvements, repair or replacement of facilities related to the revitalization of State and local parks and recreation facilities under the Land and Water Conservation Act Stateside Assistance Program, as amended (16 U.S.C. 4601(4)–(11)), except that such funds shall not be subject to the matching requirements in section 4601–89(c) of that Act:

URBAN PARKS

For construction, improvements, repair, or replacement of facilities related to the revitalization of urban parks and recreation facilities, $100 million is made available under the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2501 et seq.), except that such funds shall not be subject to the matching requirements in section 2505(a) of the Act: Provided that the amount set aside from this appropriation pursuant to section 1106 of this Act shall not be more than 5 percent instead of the percentage specified in such section and such funds are to remain available until expended. Cities and counties meeting this criterion would have to include the required distress factors as part of their applications for funding.

AMENDMENT 3

The third amendment that I would have offered would have extended the special rule regarding contracting under this bill to all sections of the bill.

The special rule on contracting would provide that each local agency that received a grant or money under this Act shall ensure, if the agency carries out modernization, renovation, or repair through a contract, the process for any such contract ensures the maximum number of qualified bidders, including local, small, minority, women- and veteran-owned businesses, through full and open competition.

This amendment is important because it ensures that qualified bidders, including local, small, minority, women- and veteran-owned businesses, participate in the process through full and open competition. This would definitely create jobs and help these communities.

AMENDMENT 4

A fourth amendment that I would have offered would have conditioned the release of monies to the Department of Justice to prevent prosecutorial misconduct. Specifically, the language would have prevented the release of money to the Department of Justice unless the State did not fund any antidrug task forces for that fiscal year or the State had in effect State laws that ensured that:

(A) a person is not convicted of a drug offense unless the fact that a drug offense was committed, and the fact that the person that committed that offense, are each supported by separate pieces of evidence other than the eyewitness testimony of a law enforcement officer or an individual acting on behalf of a law enforcement officer; and

(B) a law enforcement officer does not participate in an anti-drug task force unless the honesty and integrity of that officer is evaluated and found to be at an appropriately high level.

While I did not formally offer these amendments, I believe that their goals are no less aspirational and that these are indeed good ideas that should be included.

OBERSTAR AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENT 1

Mr. Chair, I support, and I urge my colleagues to support two amendments offered by Chairman OBERSTAR. First, I would urge my colleagues to support Chairman OBERSTAR'S

amendment that any monies appropriated under Title XII be used within 90 days or the use of such funding will be forfeited. This so-called ''Use or Lose It'' amendment addresses the issue of job creation and the necessity that the Nation must act fast. It is believed that with the inclusion of this language entities will act without delay for fear of forfeiting access to much needed funds. These monies are critical for the renovation and improvement of the Nation's transportation and infrastructure and must be expeditiously used to ignite our transportation system across the Nation. This infusement of capital into the Nation's transportation and infrastructure will surely create jobs for Americans.

AMENDMENT 2

Similarly, I support Chairman OBERSTAR'S amendment that would authorize $9 billion for use for transportation and Infrastructure development, creation, and renovation in America. Frankly, I would support increasing the amount to $12 billion because the expansion of the Nation's transportation and infrastructure is critically important to the expansion of the economy and job creation. I urge my colleagues to support this second amendment offered by Chairman OBERSTAR as well.

Mr. Chair, given the exigency of the situation and the Nation's current economic crisis, I would urge this Committee and my colleagues to move this bill quickly to the floor and act without delay. The Nation is at a crossroads and is currently sitting in its nadir, as some pundits would argue, the Nation's economy needs to be infused with capital, critical infrastructure and development, and the American people need to employed with real jobs. H.R. 1 does this. It creates the development of infrastructure, provides Americans with jobs, and tries to correct the economy. I am hopeful that this bill will help alleviate the economic woes this country faces.

As the Obama Administration staked its campaign upon the idea of change and won, I believe that America is ready for a change. We are ready to be lifted from the doldrums of economic morass. We are ready for real change that puts America, its economy, its innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit back in its rightful place. I am hopeful and confident that H.R. 1 does just that and places America back in the spotlight as the sunbeam on the world stage. I strongly urge my colleagues to act quickly and support H. Res. 88 as vigorously as I do.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chair, I am pleased to rise in support of the package before the House today, which will help put our country on a steady path toward economic recovery.

I want to thank all of the committees that have worked to put this together, particularly the members of the Appropriations Committee and its hardworking staff. As Chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, I have tried to develop proposals Members can support with confidence that they will help get our economy moving while also making us safer.

We worked diligently to scrub this bill and to make sure that the provisions that we've included would create jobs and put our economy in a stronger position for the long haul.

The bill contains $1.1 billion in new homeland security investments. We estimate that this will not only directly create thousands of jobs, but will also contribute significantly to improving both security and efficiency at our ports of entry and airports. This funding will primarily accelerate critical investments that the House has repeatedly voted for.

The recovery package contains $500 million to buy and install Aviation Explosive Detection Systems and checkpoint screening systems in the Nation's airports, improving security while helping speed the flow of travelers through airports. A more efficient transportation system will help grease the skids of our Nation's commerce. Funds will be competitively awarded based on security risk.

$150 million is provided to replace and repair Customs and Border Protection-owned land ports of entry at the top 10 facilities. This will improve border security, facilitate travel and trade, and reduce wait times. Once again, it will stimulate commerce by improving the transport of goods.

The package also includes $150 million to enable the Coast Guard to alter or remove hazardous bridges and make marine navigation safer and more efficient.

$100 million is provided for non-intrusive inspection devices to enhance security at seaports. These new devices will replace aging cargo scanning systems to ensure that our security requirements do not interrupt the flow of commerce.

Lastly, this recovery package extends aid to those hit hardest by the recent economic crisis through FEMA's Emergency Food and Shelter Program. $200 million is included to help local community organizations provide food, shelter, and support services to the Nation's hungry, homeless, and people in economic crisis. This will provide, among other things, 1-month utility payments to prevent service cut-off, and 1-month rent or mortgage assistance to prevent evictions or to help people leave shelters. Funds will be distributed by formula based on unemployment and poverty rates.

This funding has been carefully reviewed to ensure it will help the most vulnerable among us, will create new jobs, can be obligated quickly, will make our country safer, and will help improve economic efficiency. I urge members to support these homeland security investments and to vote for this economic recovery package.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Chair, H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is a critical first step to beginning what will be a long process of recovering from our current economic crisis, the likes of which we have not seen since the Depression of the 1930s. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill.

Our Nation has already lost 2 million jobs in the current recession, and is expected to lose another 3–5 million in the coming year. The bill before us targets priority investments in infrastructure, education, health care, and energy in an effort to forestall those job losses by creating or saving 3–4 million jobs.

While the need for this economic stimulus package is urgent, clear, and compelling, we must also make sure that the money is spent wisely, and that waste, fraud, and mismanagement of these funds is kept to an absolute minimum. That is why this bill includes provisions that will ensure an unparalleled level of oversight, transparency, and accountability.

Over the past few years, Oversight Committee investigations have uncovered waste and theft of government dollars on an unprecedented scale. Stacks of one-hundred-dollar bills were loaded onto cargo planes with forklifts and flown to Iraq—and nobody could say what happened to the money. Billions were spent on Katrina contracts, with little to show for it. When writing this bill, we worked with Chairman OBEY so waste and fraud is prevented from the beginning.

The bill will provide almost $210 million to agency Inspectors General and $25 million to the Government Accountability Office to ensure vigorous oversight of the programs and activities being funded through this bill. It will fund auditors and accountants, and more importantly, criminal investigators, to track the funds. The bill also creates a Recovery Act Accountability and Transparency Board to review management of the funds and provide early warnings of problems.

The bill requires an unprecedented level of transparency over the announcement and award of contracts and grants through a special Government Web site. Federal, State, and local officials will be required to post this information. Governors and mayors will have to certify that any investments funded with recovery act dollars are an appropriate use of tax dollars. It is often said that sunshine is the best disinfectant. This bill puts that sentiment to work in an extraordinarily rigorous way.

In addition, the bill makes clear that Federal contracts awarded using recovery act dollars must comply with the Federal acquisition regulation and that fixed-price, competitively awarded contracts are used to the greatest extent possible. This will ensure that the taxpayer gets the best bang for the buck.

Contractors and other non-Federal employees are also afforded whistleblower protections under this bill. This is critical, since they are often our first line of defense against wasteful spending.

Mr. Chair, this bill is essential to jump-starting our economy and providing sustained growth. But it does so in a way which will ensure unprecedented accountability and transparency. I urge all Members to support it.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Chair, there is a crisis of confidence in our country. Much of it related to the meltdown that has occurred within the financial system.

But there is also an uncertainty on the part of everyday people across this country about whether they will be able to maintain the basics in their lives. They wonder if the bottom is going to fall out from beneath their families.

People are worried about their jobs and whether they will be able to meet the mortgage payment. This bill contains funds to create jobs by building roads, sewers, a new electric grid and other needed infrastructure. It also contains a tax cut for 95 percent of working Americans.

People are worried about whether they'll have health insurance for themselves and their families. This bill provides a 65 percent subsidy for COBRA health care coverage for unemployed workers. There is another provision that will allow people to qualify temporarily for Medicaid until they find another job or alternative health care. It is estimated that these two provisions will provide health insurance to more than 8 million people.

They are worried about the cutbacks they see happening in education and how it will affect their kids. And they wonder if they will be able to send their children to college. This bill contains funding for States and school districts to prevent deep cuts in critical education programs and modernize and repair schools. The

bill also boosts Pell grants by $500 to make college more affordable.

As much as anything, people are wondering whether the Federal Government is going to take action to help them—or will the old political divisions keep this Congress from taking effective action to help people in their daily lives.

By passing this bill, we show that we will step up to the plate and help address these concerns. This bill is a first step. Other steps will be needed, but this recovery package is a good beginning. Vote for the bill.

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

With unemployment at its highest level in nearly 30 years, millions of American are struggling to pay for basic necessities as food, housing and health care, it is clear Congress must act.

In my district, our manufacturers have been hit hard by the crisis in the auto industry; our tourism economy has taken a beating as fewer Americans can afford to take a vacation; mining and forestry are suffering as the demand and price for raw materials has plummeted.

Unemployment ranges from the national average of 7.2 percent in Menominee County to 19 percent in Mackinac County. The Congress must act.

This legislation is not perfect; it is not everything I would put into an economic recovery legislation. Still, the Congress must act and act without delay!

My staff and I have been contacted by dozens of local officials from across Northern Michigan who have identified more than $360 million in road, bridge, water infrastructure and construction projects that could help jump start their local economies.

I expect only a portion of these projects may be funded—but Congress must act.

While I have reservations about this legislation, Congress must act to invest in the Americans who need a helping hand, not a hand out.

Michigan's unemployment rate is at 10.6 percent. We must act to extend unemployment benefits to help 3.5 million Americans who have exhausted their benefits.

We must act to increase food stamps to help 31 million Americans, half of whom are children.

We must act to protect health insurance coverage for Americans who have lost their jobs and are one illness or sickness away from bankruptcy.

Mr. Chair, this bill is not perfect. But the needs of the millions of Americans struggling through this deep recession demands the U.S. Congress to act. We must act. I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Chair, I support the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the important first step it takes toward reinvigorating our faltering economy. The bill invests critical dollars in nearly all major industries and will create more than 4 million jobs by the fourth quarter of 2010.

Over 300,000 jobs will be saved in Florida alone, reducing unemployment by 2.4%.

The $102 billion investment in increased income support will go to those families who are feeling the strains of financial pressure the most, providing increases in unemployment benefits, food stamps and COBRA healthcare.

Floridians can expect to see over $29.8 million directed to Head Start, over $105 million directed to child care and development block grants, over $13 million for low-income energy assistance, over $15 million for elderly nutrition programs, and nearly $9 million aimed for preventative health services.

This will help us ensure that those who have fallen with the economy won't be beaten down, but are given the protection and help they need to get back up.

I am proud the bill provides $211 billion in aid to state and local governments for vital services such as public education and law enforcement.

My own state of Florida is grappling with significant fiscal problems, due in large part to our foreclosure crisis, which has resulted in shrinking tax revenue, declining property values and slow retail sales.

I know that this federal aid to state and local governments will help fill in the gaps, ensuring our children get the educational support they need to complete on the global market. The bill provides over $654 million for grades K–12 and over $306 million for higher education institutions to modernize, maintain and repair their facilities in Florida.

The inclusion of the repeal of the 3% tax withholding on payments made to vendors by government entities will also help stimulate our economy, relieving small business and local governments from this unfair and burdensome requirement. Tax cuts in the stimulus plan will help those with the lowest incomes save more of their hard earned dollars.

In Florida this means those from the lowest end of the scale to those with middle incomes will see their taxes cut by more than 20% in 2009.

I am also pleased that the bill uses this opportunity to look forward, investing in clean and renewable energy and green infrastructure, to create jobs, reduce pollution and help to bring us to a clean energy future.

Mr. Chair, I support this bill and urge its passage.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Chair, I rise today to state for the record the intent of the legislative language in the Special Rules section H.R. 1—American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Title V—Medicaid Provisions, Section 5001, subsection (f) STATE INELIGIBILITY AND LIMITATION.

The intent of this language is to ensure that states which had laws directing reduced eligibility in their state plan or waiver on or before July 1, 2008, not be deemed ineligible to receive the increased FMAP that this bill provides, due to subsequent delays when implementing those provisions. It was the case in Rhode Island that as of July 1, 2008, state law directed and authorized the reduction of eligibility in one group of beneficiaries. These provisions were not finalized and fully effective until October 1, 2008 due to a delay in the implementation of a new extension period for the waiver. The language in this special rule allows states which encountered similar delays to remain eligible for an enhanced FMAP in this Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Chair, I want to thank Chairmen WAXMAN, OBEY and RANGEL, for their leadership and to thank all of the Ranking Members, Committee Members and Staff for this successful effort to bring the American Recovery and Reinvestment act of 2009 to the floor today so that we may deliver it on schedule to the President's desk. This bill, H.R. 1, will not only stimulate our economy, but will also do much to heal our Nation.

As our president has promised, this bill provides an immediate investment that will create jobs, but also does so with a look to the future so that the jobs created, the infrastructure built, the stronger healthcare system created, the technology that is expanded and the training and education that is improved, not only provides jobs for today but also those we need tomorrow. H.R. 1 will lay a strong foundation upon which to create a more stable and vital economy and will actually create savings in the future.

I am proud to support this bill for the very reason some on purely political reasons oppose it.

I support it because it begins to move our country in a new and better direction—one which once again supports children and working families and begins to lift Americans out of poverty and to expand access to quality, comprehensive and culturally and linguistically appropriate healthcare to everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, gender or geography.

As a physician and as the Chair of the CBC Health Braintrust, I am pleased that this legislation makes the sound and much-needed health and health care investments that many of us have been fighting for over the past eight years.

This bill not only invests needed resources into Medicaid, with increases for the Territories, it extends the period of COBRA coverage to help Americans who have lost their jobs keep their health care coverage and increases FMAP to bolster state economic recovery efforts, but it also begins to modernize our health care system through the widespread implementation of health information technology.

In H.R. 1 we finally begin to make prevention the priority it needs to be—with 3 billion dollars going into a prevention and wellness fund, 1.5 billion dollars going into modernizing and expanding health care services in community health centers and we finally invest in the diversification and expansion of our Nation's health workforce, increasing the number of primary care physicians, nurses and other health care personnel.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) having assumed the chair, Mr. TIERNEY, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1) making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OBEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members