



## U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

*PRESS RELEASE*

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### Reid/Byrd Economic Recovery Act of 2008

In response to higher unemployment, rising food costs, higher energy costs, State budgets in crisis, and increased dependence on foreign oil, President-Elect Obama has called for a second stimulus bill to jump start the economy and help Americans recover from the recession. It is time to deliver to Main Street.

Major points on the \$100.3 billion economic stimulus/recovery package, which would create over 635,000 jobs, follow:

#### Unemployment

The unemployment rate now stands at 6.5%, the highest rate since March 1994. The unemployment rate is up by 1.7 percentage points since October, including an increase of 0.4 percentage points in the last month alone. The U.S. economy has lost jobs every month this year, a total of 1.2 million jobs, with almost half of the job losses coming in the last 3 months alone. New unemployment claims filed exceeded 500,000, the highest number since just after 9/11 and long-term unemployment, those jobless for 27 weeks or more, has greatly increased to 2.3 million Americans.

By the end of September, the unemployment extension approved by Congress in June had expired for at least 180,000 people. That number is expected to grow to over 600,000 people once the October figures are tallied. Every day that an extension of unemployment benefits is delayed the number people affected by inaction increases. Extending unemployment insurance (UI) benefits generates \$1.64 in additional economic activity for every dollar in cost, according to Moody's Economy.com.

The stimulus package extends unemployment benefits by seven weeks in all states, as well as another thirteen weeks in high unemployment states. The bill also provides Federal support for the 1<sup>st</sup> week of extended benefits without requiring a waiting period.

## Helping States Deal with a Flagging Economy

Thirty-seven States are facing a shortfall of over \$70 billion in their FY 2009 budgets, necessitating cut backs in education, health care, and law enforcement. The stimulus package includes \$37.8 billion to reduce the States' share of Medicaid costs by increasing the Federal share by eight percent.

## Auto Industry Assistance

The second stimulus proposal provides \$25 billion in loans to the auto industry from the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act ó less than 4 percent of the \$700 billion. It requires a long-term financial plan from the companies and has robust provisions for oversight, taxpayer protection, and executive compensation.

## Tax Relief for New Car Purchases

The bill includes provisions to help taxpayers afford new car purchases and to save jobs in the auto industry. Specifically, the bill creates "above the line" tax deductions for interest payments on car loans and state sales/excise taxes for new cars purchased between November 12, 2008 and December 31, 2009. Families making less than \$250,000 a year, or individuals making less than \$125,000 a year, qualify for the full deduction. A family could save approximately \$1,553 on a \$25,000 car, and approximately \$2,500 on a \$35,000 car.

## High Food Costs

Food prices have increased by 7.6% this year after increasing 4.9% in 2007. In order to help low-income families cope with rising food prices, the stimulus package temporarily increases Food Stamp benefits by 10 percent and includes \$445 million for the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program (which would allow 600,000 women and children to receive WIC benefits, meet some of the rising demand due to a faltering economy, and allow states to avoid creating waiting lists). \$50 million is included for Food Banks, \$8 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food program, and \$60 million for senior meals programs (18 million more meals).

- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). The bill provides \$445 million for WIC, which will prevent nearly 600,000 low-income women, infants, and children from losing WIC benefits, according to United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) latest food and administrative cost estimates. The funding will also prevent States from having to create waiting lists due to funding uncertainty.
- The Commodity Supplemental Food Programs (CSFP). The CSFP currently serves approximately 466,075 low-income senior citizens, women, infants, and children in 32 States and the District of Columbia and allows USDA to purchase specific commodities and make them available to participating States. Recent and rapid increases in commodity prices have forced USDA to use up much of its inventory for CSFP food. The additional \$8 million that the stimulus provides will allow USDA to prevent smaller food packages or a forced decrease in participation.
- The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). TEFAP allows USDA to purchase commodities and make them available for free to the States, which then provide them to approved food distribution centers, including food banks and homeless shelters. The amount of food distributed to each State is determined by that State's low-income and unemployed population. The stimulus includes \$50 million for TEFAP that will allow USDA to buy additional food at a time when food prices are at record highs and the economy is weak.
- Senior Meals. The stimulus provides \$60 million to help senior meals programs cope with steep increases in food and fuel costs. This will result in an additional 18 million meals served. Skyrocketing food and gas prices have forced senior meals programs to make cuts; nearly half of programs have been forced to eliminate meal delivery routes or consolidate their meal services. These cutbacks put our most vulnerable seniors at risk of hunger, poor health, and isolation.

### High Energy Prices

Energy prices have increased by 16.6% in 2008 after increasing 17.4% in 2007. In order to help Americans cope with spiraling energy costs, \$500 million is included for weatherization programs. This is in addition to \$5.1

billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) and \$250 million for weatherization provided in the continuing resolution in October.

- Weatherization Assistance. The bill provides an additional \$500 million for the Weatherization Assistance Program, which improves the energy efficiency of low-income housing. This amount of funding will support more than 8,000 existing jobs, weatherize about 300,000 homes, and save each household about \$400 in energy costs this coming year.

### Energy Independence

The second stimulus includes major investments in promoting energy independence and a clean environment. The stimulus makes major investments in electrifying vehicles with \$300 million for advanced battery research, and \$1 billion for the advanced battery manufacturing loan guarantee program which will authorize over \$3.3 billion in loan guarantees. In addition, the stimulus includes \$500 million to help local governments improve energy efficiency; \$500 million for additional energy efficiency and renewable energy research, development and deployment; and \$140 million for electricity transmission improvements.

Over 22 percent of the world's undiscovered energy supply is under the Arctic ice cap. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has stated that Russia should unilaterally claim part of the Arctic, stepping up the race for the disputed energy-rich region. Russia has a fleet of 20 heavy ice breakers and is nearing completion of the first of their newest fleet of nuclear-powered icebreakers in an effort to control energy exploration and maritime trade in the region. Thanks to the Bush Administration, the United States has only one functioning heavy polar icebreaker, and it has only six years left of useful life. \$925 million is included for the Coast Guard to provide what the Navy and the Air Force call, "an essential instrument of U.S. policy" in the region. Constructing a new Coast Guard icebreaker will ensure that the United States has the ability to respond to the growing risks presented by increased activity in the Arctic and protects U.S. environmental, economic, homeland security, and national security interests in both Polar Regions.

- Advanced Battery Technology. \$300 million is included for Advanced Battery Technology to help resolve problems in developing

long-term, cost-effective storage systems, the biggest hurdle to bringing plug-in hybrid or pure plug-in vehicles to the marketplace.

- Advanced Battery Loan Guarantee Program. \$1 billion is included to authorize at least \$3.3 billion in loan guarantees for the manufacturing of advanced batteries. These loans will help encourage the manufacturing of batteries in the United States.
- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Project Grants. The stimulus includes \$500 million for competitively awarded grants to State, local, county, and tribal governments for innovative energy efficiency and renewable energy demonstration projects.
- Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability. \$140 million is included for improvements to our electricity transmission grid. Funds will be used for smart grid technologies and work to secure our transmission grid. Transmission improvements and expansion are central to our ability to get renewable energy to the marketplace.

The bill contains an amendment to Section 1222(g) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 that raises the cap on third-party financing of transmission facilities of the Western Area Power Administration and the Southwestern Power Administration from \$100 million to \$2.5 billion. Construction of new transmission capability is key to our ability to create markets for renewable energy.

### Caring for the Environment

Over \$5 billion is included for environmental clean up, urban and rural clean water systems, and for maintenance of our parks, forests, and wildlife refuges.

- Department of Energy. The stimulus includes \$1.12 billion for the Department of Energy's Environmental Cleanup programs of former nuclear weapons production plants, which will restore at least 200 cleanup jobs around the nation that were going to be lost due to the Administration's budget cuts in FY 2008 and 2009. The funds will help address an existing backlog of deconstruction and decontamination work ready to be initiated across the complex.

- National Park Centennial Fund. The bill establishes the Centennial Fund for fiscal years 2009-2018. Over \$500 million in public-private funding will be provided for restoration of National Park Service facilities and development of new programs. Funding thus far has provided an additional 3,000 park rangers, law enforcement rangers, and maintenance personnel service-wide.
- Federal Lands Maintenance. The bill provides \$1.05 billion for backlog and deferred maintenance projects at National Parks, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, Bureau of Land Management recreational facilities, Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities, and US Geological Survey facilities. The funds will be used for a wide variety of projects such as road and bridge repairs, clean up of abandoned mines, health and safety upgrades to buildings and recreational facilities, repair of ground water wells, levee and dike repairs, and tribal schools and detention facilities repairs. Overall, these funds will create an estimated 24,000 jobs.
- Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. The bill includes \$2.5 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds which provide funding to States for low-cost loans to make local sewer projects affordable.

EPA estimates that \$202 billion will be needed to keep pace with aging sewer infrastructure needs over the next 20 years, which would require an average commitment of \$10 billion per year. The President's FY 2009 request of \$555 million for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund funds just 5 percent of that annual need.

It is estimated that this \$2.5 billion investment would create at least 72,000 jobs and generate an additional \$1.1 billion in economic benefits for communities.

### Building Infrastructure and Creating Jobs

There are consequences for failing to invest in America. Trucks are barred from critical highways. Roads and subways are congested to the breaking point. Rail passengers are left stranded on the platform. FEMA cannot

respond to a major disaster. Fuel prices go through the roof. Our economy slows, and we are less competitive in the world economy.

The stimulus package includes: \$13.5 billion for building and repairing highways, bridges, mass transit, airports, and AMTRAK, creating 470,000 jobs:

- Additional Highway Funding. The Committee bill includes \$10 billion for highway investments. These investments will require no local matching funds. The funding will be sent by formula to every State in order to improve deficient roads and bridges. These investments will also generate over 345,000 jobs.
- Public Transit. The first half of 2008 saw 230 million more transit trips than the same period last year. The bill includes \$2.5 billion for transit agencies to address capital and operating needs in order to meet this growing demand. These investments will require no local match. In addition, expanded contingent commitment authority is provided to allow the Federal Transit Administration to finalize additional cost-sharing agreements with public transit authorities for the completion of expanded transit services.
- Investing in Passenger Rail Infrastructure. As a record number of Americans are turning to Amtrak in the wake of high gas prices, the bill includes funding to address the increasing demands on the nation's passenger rail system across the country. The bill includes \$400 million to fund capital projects along Amtrak's corridors, including funding to rehabilitate inactive rolling stock to expand passenger capacity. The bill also includes \$100 million to fund grants to states for capital projects that improve the quality and timeliness of passenger rail service across the nation.
- Airport Investments. The Committee bill includes \$500 million for capital improvements to airports across the country. These funds will support projects that are ready to begin construction immediately, bringing necessary improvements to our aviation system and supporting jobs in the local communities. These investments will require no local match.

- Investing in Maritime Communities. The Committee bill includes \$120 million to invest in marine transportation and shipyard capacity. This includes \$60 million for competitive grants to assist small shipyards in making themselves more competitive in the shipbuilding industry. This funding will assist shipyards in increasing capacity and creating jobs. In addition, \$60 million is provided for competitive grants to public passenger ferry systems for ready-to-go capital projects that will improve the availability and quality of passenger ferry service.
- Economic Development Administration (EDA) Economic Adjustment Assistance. The bill includes \$50 million for EDA economic adjustment grants to assist communities to recover from sudden and severe economic dislocation and massive job losses due to corporate restructuring. This funding will leverage \$350 million in private funding and create 9,000 new jobs in communities struggling with substantial job losses.
- Aviation Security. The bill provides \$500 million for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to accelerate procurement and installation of security equipment at airports. With these additional funds, TSA can begin to buy down an estimated \$1.6 billion in equipment needs at airports nationwide. Approximately nine additional airports will receive funds for explosives detection systems for checked baggage. These funds will also allow TSA to purchase and deploy advanced security technology at the Nation's checkpoints.
- National Security Cutter. As a result of cost increases associated with various economic factors, the bill provides \$150 million to ensure that work on the Coast Guard's first three National Security Cutters continues and production on the 4<sup>th</sup> commences this fiscal year. Failure to provide these funds puts at risk approximately 650-700 personnel who work on the NSC production each day.
- Bridge Alteration Investments. The bill provides \$90 million for the Coast Guard to begin construction this fiscal year on bridges declared unreasonably obstructive to navigation. Because bridge projects must receive sufficient funding to begin construction, the funds provided in

this bill will leverage at least \$92 million already appropriated but unspent for these projects.

- Investing in Coast Guard Infrastructure. The Coast Guard's aging shore infrastructure is in vital need of repair with an estimated \$750 million backlog. The bill provides \$145 million to accelerate priority projects that are necessary to meet emerging threats and increase readiness.
- Rural Utilities & Community Facilities. The stimulus includes \$792 million in loans and grants for essential rural community facilities, including hospitals, health clinics, health and safety vehicles and equipment, public buildings, and child and elder care facilities. A substantial and longstanding backlog exists of approved applications for clean water and waste disposal projects in rural communities. The recent Farm Bill provided some funding for this purpose, but the backlog remains. This bill includes \$200 million in budget authority that will support over \$477 million in loans and grants for needed water and waste disposal facilities in remote rural areas.
- Farm Bill Implementation Costs. The bill provides \$172 million to assist USDA in stabilizing and upgrading computer systems which are critical for implementing the new Farm Bill. The Farm Bill will provide billions of dollars in economic support to rural America but continuing risks of computer systems failure puts those investments at high risk at the worst possible time.
- Corps of Engineers. The second stimulus includes \$1 billion, of which \$150 million will provide construction jobs for rehabilitation and maintenance of Corps' hydropower facilities that are nearing the end of their design life. Construction work includes rewinding generators, replacing turbines and transformers, and upgrading switchyards and other electrical equipment. Funding is included for the dredging of channels that provide either significant movement of coal, fuel, liquefied natural gas (LNG), or oil and natural gas equipment, and to partially address the backlog of dredging work at other Corps of Engineers harbors and channels. Additional construction and maintenance funds are intended for work at flood control, environmental restoration, public use, and navigation projects nationwide and to provide environmental infrastructure assistance to

eligible communities. These funds will be used to fund work that can be immediately awarded to provide jobs in the construction industry across the country.

- Bureau of Reclamation Energy Stimulus Work. \$200 million is provided for Bureau of Reclamation projects for work that that can be immediately awarded to provide jobs in the construction industry across the western U.S. to further Reclamation's mission of providing water and power to the West. \$15 million provides immediate jobs for the rehabilitation of some Bureau of Reclamation hydropower plants that are nearing the end of their design life. \$45 million is provided for water reclamation and reuse projects to supplement water systems across the west. \$50 million is provided to advance rural water projects and \$5 million is for canal safety that would be initiated by Bureau of Reclamation to determine the safety and stability of the hundreds of miles of canals that convey water across the western U.S. Many of these canals are approaching 100-years of age and are nearing the end of their design life. This program would help to determine the next steps that should be undertaken to address these aging canals. Other funds would be used for environmental restoration and stewardship activities, as well as backlog maintenance, water supply and efficiency measures.

## Housing

- Investing in Public Housing. The Committee bill includes \$700 million for capital funding grants to public housing agencies to make capital improvements to their housing stock, which is an integral part of the nation's infrastructure. This funding will allow housing agencies to repair vacant units, renovate existing units, expand capacity, make additional affordable housing available to individuals and families, and assist housing agencies in making housing properties more energy efficient. In addition, these capital projects will result in the creation of jobs.

The Committee bill also includes \$200 million to provide housing agencies with additional funding to alleviate the increased costs of energy. Providing this funding will allow agencies to maintain safe housing, while continuing to maintain the necessary services for their residents.

- Providing Housing Assistance to Renters who are Victims of the Foreclosure Crisis. The foreclosure crisis is affecting renters who have been paying their rent, but are losing their housing because the owner of the property is in foreclosure. The Committee bill includes \$575 million to provide relocation and temporary housing assistance to these individuals and families, so that they can find and maintain safe and stable housing.
- Rural Housing. The bill includes \$3.2 billion in direct and guaranteed single family housing (SFH) loans that will provide about 32,000 very low to moderate-income rural households with the opportunity of homeownership, especially during this period of uncertainty in the housing market.
- Supporting the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). In the midst of the nation's housing crisis, the Federal Housing Administration has seen its role in the housing market increase substantially. In addition, with the recent passage of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act, FHA is expected to guarantee an estimated 400,000 additional loans to prevent more Americans from facing foreclosure. The Committee bill provides FHA with over \$51 million to modernize its systems and hire additional staff. These resources will be critical to ensuring that FHA's mortgage fund remains solvent, and that the agency serves the needs of homeowners while protecting the interests of the taxpayer.
- Help for Families Facing Foreclosure. The stimulus bill provides \$37.5 million for the Legal Services Corporation to provide legal assistance to families whose homes are in foreclosure.

### Improving the Quality of Life for Military Families

- Military Family Housing and Quality of Life Construction. The financial and housing crisis has placed an added burden on the shoulders of America's military families, who are already coping with the strains of repeated combat deployments. To help reduce that burden, the bill includes \$175 million for the construction, replacement, and improvement of military family housing at Army and Air Force installations, and an additional \$75 million for the

construction of child development centers at Navy installations. In addition to providing needed housing and child care centers for military families, the funding will provide critically needed construction jobs in the affected communities.

### Education and Job Training

To promote education and job training, \$2.5 billion is included for school repairs, \$600 million for youth training and dislocated workers, \$200 million for the Community Services Block Grant, and \$36 million for homeless education. Job training funds would provide 160,000 dislocated workers and youth with education, training, counseling, and job search assistance.

- Department of Labor Employment and Training. Over the past year, unemployment has grown to 10.1 million people nationally, an increase of 2.8 million people. Long-term unemployment is up by more than 95 percent over the level at the beginning of the last recession in March 2001. At that time, the number of workers unemployed 27 weeks or more was 703,000, or 11.4 percent of the unemployed. Last month, 2.3 million people were unemployed for at least 27 weeks, which is 22.3 percent of all unemployed individuals.

The second stimulus package includes \$300 million for employment and training activities for dislocated workers. These funds will help more than 79,000 people receive services, which include job search and career counseling, as well as training.

Additionally, the national jobless rate for teenagers reached 20.6% in October, and unemployment rates for minority teens were worse -- for example, about 32.4 percent for African American teenagers. These are near historic highs. Funds are needed to reduce these rates, and this second stimulus includes \$300 million for this purpose. These funds will support part-time jobs after school, paid internships, and community service jobs for older youth, and will help low income youth acquire work skills and income that can help families living in poverty or experiencing economic turmoil. Communities and cities will also benefit by engaging young people in productive activities. More than 80,000 youth would receive services under this stimulus package.

- School Repair and Renovation. Too many of America's children go to school in overcrowded buildings with leaky roofs, faulty electrical systems, and outdated technology, all of which compromise their ability to achieve, succeed, and develop the educational skills necessary for the workforce of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. An emergency public school renovation and repair program will help States meet the school facility needs of local communities by providing resources to repair, renovate, and modernize America's schools. Equally important, enactment of this program will stimulate the creation of tens of thousands of new jobs in construction-related services. The stimulus includes \$2.5 billion for this purpose, an amount that would be sufficient to create an estimated 40,000 jobs.
- School Improvement ó Education for Homeless Children. Many school districts across the country are reporting sharp spikes in the number of homeless students because of the foreclosure crisis, which is expected to directly impact an estimated 1.95 million children. At the same time, rising fuel costs are making it harder for school districts to provide transportation to students who have been displaced. The \$36 million in this amendment for "School Improvement Programs" would be sufficient to provide transportation or other services to an estimated 240,000 homeless children.
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). The stimulus provides \$200 million to local community action agencies (CAAs) for services to the growing numbers of low-income families hurt by the economic crisis. Faced with the impacts of rising unemployment and increasing plant closures, local community action agencies are reporting a surge in demand for housing and mortgage counseling, job skills training, job search assistance, transportation, and child care. The additional funds provided will allow CAAs to stabilize families facing emergencies, as well as develop family credit building initiatives and provide community business assistance, such as funding loans to sustain micro-businesses or credit-challenged local small businesses.

## Health

- National Institutes of Health (NIH). Even with the \$150 million included in the first stimulus bill, NIH funding failed to keep up with biomedical inflation in FY08 for the fifth year in a row, a trend

that has discouraged many young scientists from this field and puts the Nation at risk of losing a generation of talented investigators. The second stimulus includes \$1 billion to restore some of the purchasing power of NIH that was lost because of inflation in the past five years and allow NIH to award as many as 2,700 new research project grants that could lead to cures and treatments for cancer, Alzheimer's, heart disease, and many other devastating diseases.

- Centers for Disease Control (CDC). The bill provides \$46 million for the CDC for combating infectious diseases.
- Pandemic Flu Preparedness. The bill provides \$905 million for the Public Health and Social Services (PHSSEF) to enhance the Nation's preparedness against a bioterrorist event through the advanced development of priority medical countermeasures and activities that support the distribution and dispensing of medical countermeasures. This funding would also improve the Nation's preparedness in the event of an influenza pandemic.

### Small Business

- Small Business Administration. America's small businesses, the lifeblood of our economy, are being denied access to credit as a direct result of the turmoil in the larger financial markets. In October alone, the number of loans made under SBA's largest loan program, the 7(a) program, dropped by over 50 percent compared to the same month last year. The stimulus provides \$615 million to support \$22.5 billion in zero-fee loans to small businesses under the 7(a) program and the 504 program. Providing zero-fee loans will deliver needed relief to small businesses on Main Street during Wall Street's financial crisis.

The bill also provides \$1 million to support \$10 million in new microloans for small businesses and \$4 million for critical technical assistance for these "micro" borrowers.

- Rural Business. The stimulus includes \$1.07 billion for loans and grants to support income and employment expansion through improved business opportunities in rural areas. This would help create or save over 13,500 jobs in rural America.

## Border Security and Crime Fighting

The bill includes over \$1 billion for border security and other homeland security investments.

- Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Border Security. The bill also provides a total of \$303 million for enhanced border security, including \$215 million to expedite development and deployment of border security technology on the Southwest border, and \$88 million for procurement and deployment of tactical communications equipment and land mobile radios for the U.S. Border Patrol.
- Customs and Border Protection and General Services Administration (GSA). The bill provides \$100 million to U.S. Customs and Border Protection for construction at CBP-owned inspection facilities at land border ports of entry. The stimulus also includes \$201 million for GSA for construction and repair/alteration of border stations (land ports of entry) to help address the backlog of these facilities needed for our Nation's security and commerce. Significant increases in trade and vehicle traffic, as well as the hiring of new personnel, have placed strains on the many outdated border inspection facilities.
- Consolidating Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Headquarters. The stimulus includes \$346 million for DHS to begin construction of a consolidated headquarters in Washington, D.C. Currently operating in 70 buildings located on 40 sites across the National Capital Region, DHS has a critical need for a permanent, unified headquarters.
- Fighting Violence on the Southwest Border. The bill includes \$100 million to help communities along the Southwest Border fight the illegal flow of guns and drugs between the U.S. and Mexico that is fueling violence along the Border.

- Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) ó Acquisition Construction & Improvements. The bill provides \$9 million for security upgrades at border related FLETC sites.
- Byrne Justice Assistance Grants. The bill provides \$490 million for Byrne Justice Assistance Grants to support State and local police fighting crime in our communities. Specifically, this funding will help keep over 6,000 cops on the beat in our local communities and aid in the installation of almost 45,000 mobile laptops in police vehicles.
- COPS Hiring. The bill includes \$500 million for the competitive COPS hiring grant program, which will put 6,500 new cops on the street across the country. This is the first time since FY 2005 that this program would receive substantial dedicated funds to help communities hire new police.
- U.S. Marshals Service. The stimulus also includes \$50 million for the U.S. Marshals Service to implement the Adam Walsh Act. This funding will allow the Marshals to hire 150 new Deputy U.S. Marshals dedicated to apprehending fugitive sex offenders who threaten children in our communities.

## Science

- NASA. The bill provides \$400 million for NASA to help shorten the projected 5-year gap between the retirement of the Space Shuttle in 2010 and the availability of the new U.S. space vehicle in 2015. During this gap, the only way U.S. astronauts will be able to access space will be aboard Russian vehicles.
- Department of Energy. The stimulus the Department of Energy's Office of Science program by \$175 million to meet international and domestic research priorities and infrastructure needs.
- Cyber Security. The bill includes \$100 million for implementation of Section 1051 of the 2004 Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (\$30 million) and enhanced cyber and site security

across the National Nuclear Security Administration complex (\$70 million) in the Department of Energy.

### Disaster Assistance

- Crop Disaster. States are also facing economic downturn due to natural disasters, especially in the agriculture sector. Although the Farm Bill includes a program for crop loss recovery, those disaster benefits will not be available until late next year. This bill includes language that will provide relief to American farmers and ranchers for losses in 2008 in the same manner as in previous years as an alternative to assistance for 2008 that would be provided through the Farm Bill.
- Community Disaster Loans. A provision is included which will provide access to additional loan amounts for communities that have been devastated by the 2008 disasters, including those impacted by the Midwest floods and Hurricanes Ike and Gustav. Communities whose local economies have been impacted by 25 percent or more will now be able to apply for loans for up to 50 percent of their pre-storm revenue.
- Commerce Survey on Impact of Natural Disasters. The bill includes a directive for the Department of Commerce to assess the lost economic output caused by major natural disasters in 2008 across all impacted states. This information will be used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in determining the appropriate allocation of a portion of the CDBG funds that were provided for disaster recovery within the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

### Consumer Protection

- Commodity Futures Trading Commission. The second stimulus also includes \$13.1 million to permit prompt implementation of new authorities enacted in the 2008 Farm Bill (P.L. 110-246). The stimulus bill will enhance enforcement, market surveillance, and oversight of the futures markets in response to significant public concern about record energy and agricultural commodity prices,

including escalating costs at the gas pump, and the impact on American consumers and our national economy.

- Stopping Mortgage Fraud. The bill includes \$75 million for the FBI for agents to investigate rising claims of mortgage fraud.
- Treasury Inspector General. The financial system is grappling with an unprecedented number of bank failures. The bill provides \$10.5 million for the Treasury Inspector General to conduct critical reviews of these bank failures.