



June 9, 2009

The Honorable Todd Tiahrt  
2441 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Repeal the Stimulus Act

Dear Congressman Tiahrt,

We write in support of your “Repeal the Stimulus Act,” a bill that would recover the unobligated discretionary funds from the trillion dollar spending and debt package President Obama and Congress passed under the guide of economic “stimulus.”

The package has not prevented the jobless numbers from going above 8%, as the Administration had claimed it would. Instead, unemployment has recently peaked at 9.4% - even higher than the White House’s prediction of what would happen if Congress hadn’t passed the package.

Several months into the implementation of the package there are still no clear reporting requirements in place, and instead of unprecedented transparency and accountability, taxpayers have to learn of numerous instances of waste and abuse from week to week. Those instances are likely to be more frequent if the President makes good on his promise to accelerate the spending under the stimulus, as haste is known to make waste.

At the time, we made our opposition to the package very clear, and pointed out that government cannot create wealth, it merely moves it around. This package has merely been taking money out of the productive sector of the economy to throw political favors in the form of hand-picked projects with often dubious merits.

Economists agreed that the stimulus was a bad deal for taxpayers then, and they agree now. In fact, Stanford University economist John Cogan was quoted in the Washington Times this week saying:

*“The end of the recession is still months away, but it is increasingly clear the stimulus package was a serious mistake. To date, it has had no identifiable beneficial impact on the economy. (...) More important, its impact later this year and next will be decidedly negative because the funds required to finance the package’s spending will be drawn from private-sector resources that are needed to fuel the recovery. At this juncture, Congress would be wise to repeal the remainder of the program.”*

We agree, and hope that you will join Congressman Tiahrt in sponsoring and passing this bill that would at least partially restore fiscal sanity, and would make sure that the private sector keeps the resources necessary to truly fuel recovery.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist  
President  
Americans for Tax Reform

Sandra Fabry  
Executive Director  
Center for Fiscal Accountability

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