

## **Just the Facts: Ten Things You Need To Know About the Stimulus Plan**

1. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, Congress's official scorekeeper, has stated that this plan will end up costing taxpayers roughly **\$1.2 trillion**. That is enough spending to give every man, woman, and child in America \$3,857 and every New Yorker more than \$60,000.
2. The bill creates 32 new government programs at a cost of \$136 billion. That means more than a third of this plan's spending provisions are dedicated to creating new government programs.
3. Just 2.7 percent – or \$22.3 billion of the plan – is dedicated to small business tax relief. **That means that for every dollar this plan devotes to tax relief for small businesses, Washington gets to keep six dollars to create new government programs.** As Ronald Reagan said, "The nearest thing to eternal life we will ever see on this earth is a government program."
4. The spending provisions in the bill include:
  - \$650 million for digital TV coupons.
  - \$600 million for new cars for the federal government.
  - \$600 million to prepare the country for government-run health care.
  - \$50 million in funding for the National Endowment of the Arts.
  - \$44 million for repairs to U.S. Department of Agriculture headquarters.
5. Investing in infrastructure is a high priority, but only \$30 billion of this bill – or three percent – is dedicated to road and highway spending. A recent study from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget found that only 25 percent of infrastructure dollars can be spent in the first year, making the one year total less than \$7 billion.
6. The bill spends \$275,000 per job created and \$646, 214 per government job created. The most recently recorded average household income for Western New York is \$52,626.
7. The plan directs spending to at least 150 different federal programs, ranging from NASA to the Transportation Security Administration.
8. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation, and the National Federation of Independent Business, the nation's leading small business association, both strongly oppose this bill.
9. A number of editorial boards and independent voices have cast doubt on the current stimulus plan's effectiveness and the overall lack of spending restraint, including the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, USA Today, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, and former Clinton White House budget director Alice Rivlin.
10. Vice President Joe Biden has already stated that the bill will change over the next several weeks. During an appearance on CBS' "Face the Nation," Biden said the plan offered by Democrats would likely change as it wends its way through Congress." (The Hill, 1/25/09)

**BONUS:** Congressman Lee supports an economic stimulus package that works swiftly, effectively, and spends Western New Yorkers hard-earned tax dollars' wisely. He was appointed by House leaders to serve on a working group tasked with developing constructive ideas for an effective economic stimulus package. The working group's proposals include immediate tax relief for working families, help for America's small businesses, assistance for the unemployed, stabilizing home values, and no tax increases to pay for new spending.

\*DRAFT\* January 28, 2009 \*DRAFT\*

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