

Congressional Progressive Caucus

<http://cpc.lee.house.gov>

72 Strong and Growing: Open to New and Different Ideas

April 8, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232
U.S. Capitol

Dear Nancy,

We are very encouraged that included in the House Democratic Caucus Talking Points from last Friday, April 4th, is the statement that ‘the Democratic Congress will now begin work on a second stimulus package that will help get our economy back on track, create jobs, and speed assistance to families struggling to make ends meet.’ As you recall, we wrote to you on January 23rd to urge that the first economic stimulus package include more provisions to boost our declining national economy and especially help the hardest hit – low and middle-income Americans.

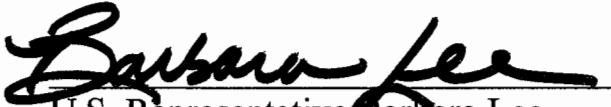
Last month, after consultation with a wide range of progressive policy-thinkers at the Economic Policy Institute, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Campaign for America’s Future, and others, we included a \$118.9 billion package in our FY09-18 Progressive Caucus Budget Substitute (the only budget plan to do so). The CPC-recommended second stimulus package would pump \$118.9 billion into the economy during the next 18 months, using many of the most effective tools left out of the first enacted economic stimulus package – increasing federal spending for unemployment insurance and food stamp benefits, Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) Medicaid payments to states, home foreclosure relief and housing assistance, reinvesting and creating jobs in the near-term repairing the nation’s schools, transportation infrastructure and public housing, and building new wastewater treatment plants, expanding the earned income tax credit for families with 3 or more children, and making the child tax credit fully refundable for families with at least \$3,000 in earnings [and Social Security]. (See attached materials.)

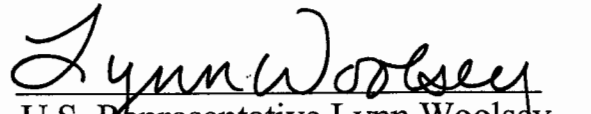
In addition, this package would jump start and begin to fund a major Rebuild and Reinvest in America Initiative during the coming decade to create green jobs and overhaul our nation’s crumbling infrastructure. This would tackle the backlogs in transportation, public housing maintenance and repairs, water treatment system improvements, and school repairs and construction.

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We look forward to working with you in coming days to craft the second economic stimulus package for congressional approval and we hope you find merit in many of the provisions we are recommending.

Sincerely,


U.S. Representative Barbara Lee
Co-Chair, Progressive Caucus


U.S. Representative Lynn Woolsey
Co-Chair, Progressive Caucus

cc: Majority Leader Steny Hoyer
Majority Whip James Clyburn
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