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# Rejected proposal backed by most in S.C. delegation

By [Trevor Anderson](#)  
[trevor.anderson@shj.com](mailto:trevor.anderson@shj.com)

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The sweeping \$700 billion emergency rescue plan for the nation's financial system that Congress rejected Monday was backed by a majority of the South Carolina House delegation.

U.S. Rep. Bob Inglis and four other Congressmen - Republicans Henry Brown and Joe Wilson, and Democrats John Spratt and James Clyburn - voted yes to the bailout. Republican Gresham Barrett split from the group and voted no.

Barrett, 47, a former business owner from Westminster, said he couldn't support a bill that allowed the government to impede a free market solution.

"The long term success of the American economy has always been based on a free market system," Barrett said in a statement. "I am committed to continue working with my colleagues on solutions that get us through this difficult time while preserving the free market principles that must continue to guide our economy."

Inglis, 49, of Travelers Rest, said failure to act would create the substantial risk of a significant economic downturn.

"It stinks we're in this spot, but we are where we are," he said. "So the question to me was whether the risk of doing nothing was greater than using \$700 billion from liquid securities, and I decided it was."

Clyburn blasted House Republicans who voted against the bill.

"We came to the floor with a piece of legislation that members of our caucus decided was in the best interest of the country," he said, in an interview with McClatchy News. "Sixty-seven percent of the Republican conference decided to put political ideology ahead of the best interests of our great nation."

Republicans who opposed the bill said it was a blow to economic freedom and Democrats who voted no said it had been rushed through without consideration.

Major players in the effort to develop a bailout plan are expected to try it again later this week.

Meanwhile, local financial analysts voiced their concerns for the markets over the failed bailout.

"We're headed for 1929 all over again," said Tony Plath, associate professor of finance at UNC-Charlotte. "The economy is basically melting down right now and we're in danger of losing the banking and credit industries."

He said the country was headed for a major economic catastrophe if the government fails to intervene immediately.

"Something needs to be done sooner rather than later, but we need to make sure we get it right rather than rushing something through and later realizing there are critical mistakes," said Philip Swicegood, associate professor of accounting and finance at Wofford College. "I think we're looking more at 1982 rather than 1929."

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