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Washington, DC  
 131 Cannon HOB  
 Washington, DC 20515  
 202.225.2401

Austin, TX  
 5929 Balcones Dr. Suite 305  
 Austin, TX 78731  
 512.473.2357

Brenham, TX  
 2000 S. Market Street,  
 Suite 303  
 Brenham, TX 77833  
 979.830.8497

Katy, TX  
 1550 Foxlake, Suite 114  
 Houston, TX 77084  
 281.398.1247

## THE McCaul Minute

February 13, 2009

Dear Friends,

**Stimulus Bill**

Today I joined my Republican House colleagues and seven Democrats to vote against the Democrats' \$787 billion spending bill, which surpasses \$1 trillion with interest. Despite our efforts, this bill, packed with billions of dollars in wasteful spending, passed the House by a 246-183 vote. History has proven that we can't spend our way out of debt. However, this plan will cost taxpayers the equivalent of a million dollars a day for the next 3,000 years to fund a long wish list of items that won't create jobs.

While I do support some provisions of the bill such as the tax relief and investments in infrastructure, only 17% of the \$1 trillion provides new tax relief and less than 10% provides new roads and bridges. There's simply not enough stimulus in this bill to give the economy the immediate jolt it needs. Alarming, this bill will provide 300,000 jobs for illegal immigrants because it does not contain House-passed E-Verify language that will help ensure a legal U.S. workforce.

Unfortunately, Speaker Pelosi did not allow enough time for the 1000+ page bill to be reviewed and debated or for House Members to offer up alternative plans. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office projects that long-term, the Democrats' package will do more harm than good. It says that over 10 years, extra debt will "crowd out" private investment, leading to a lower gross domestic product, which would hurt workers' wages. I am also concerned about rising interest rates and inflation as a result of this bill.

I supported the Republican Alternative Plan. Calculations from the president's own analysts indicate the alternative would institute long-term, meaningful tax cuts for individuals and small businesses, and create twice as many jobs for half the cost of the stimulus package. According to their calculations, this alternative stimulus would create an estimated 490,000 jobs in Texas, compared to only 204,000 in the final bill.

It's time to get Americans working again, and working for themselves – not for paying off the salaries of more bureaucrats and the costs of pork barrel spending. I will keep working to turn the tide.

Tomball, TX  
990 Village Square, Suite B  
Tomball, TX 77375  
281.255.8372



Congressman McCaul receives the 1000+ page Stimulus Bill to review.

### **No Congressional Pay Raise**

You the taxpayer won a battle with Speaker Nancy Pelosi this week. The Speaker backed down from initially supporting automatic pay raises for House members this year. Her decision came after mounting pressure from House Republicans. Last month, I joined 59 of my colleagues to cosponsor the Stop the Congressional Pay Raise Act. In the midst of a recession, Congress should reject an automatic pay hike that would pad an already sizable Congressional compensation package. I believe that this is a great step forward, and the right thing to do. The American people aren't getting a pay raise. Neither should Congress.

### **Green Energy Education Act**

To answer the calls of many in the academic and business community to recruit and develop scientific and engineering talent to work on solving problems of national need, I have reintroduced the Green Energy Education Act, H.R. 957. The Act passed unanimously in the House of Representatives last Congress but did not reach the floor of the Senate for a vote.

The Green Energy Education Act authorizes the Department of Energy to partner with the National Science Foundation in support of multidisciplinary graduate education and curriculum development activities. The bill will help develop the next generation of engineers and architects to work effectively together to produce buildings incorporating the latest in energy efficient technologies.

### **Free Flow of Information Act**

Understanding the importance a free press plays in a free and democratic society, I signed on as an original co-sponsor of the Free Flow of Information Act. H.R. 2102 strikes the proper balance between allowing journalists and law enforcement to do their jobs effectively, and both in the best interest of the public. Specifically, it provides a qualified privilege to journalists, which prevents them from being compelled to testify, produce documents, or disclose sources in civil and criminal cases, unless certain standards and conditions are met. This bill gives journalists certain rights and abilities to seek sources and report appropriate information to the public without fear of imprisonment.

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**In the News**

Congressman McCaul delivers a speech on the Stimulus Package on C-SPAN:  
[http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10\\_mccaul/morenews/2\\_11\\_09.html](http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10_mccaul/morenews/2_11_09.html)

Congressman McCaul speaks to KLBJ about the Stimulus Package:  
[http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10\\_mccaul/morenews/2\\_14\\_09.html](http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10_mccaul/morenews/2_14_09.html)

I wish you and your family a happy and safe weekend.

With best regards,



Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress

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