

(January 24, 2008) Lipinski Applauds Bipartisan Economic Stimulus Package

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Calls for Greater Investments in Infrastructure and Manufacturing

[Washington D.C.] Today, congressional leaders and the Bush Administration announced that an agreement has been reached on an economic stimulus package that will provide at least \$300 in tax rebates to American middle class families. In response, Congressman Dan Lipinski (D-IL) released the following statement:

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"America is great not because of our natural wonders or monuments, America is great because of the middle class families who are the backbone of our nation. It is the great American middle class that has built our country, and it is the middle class that needs help now at this critical time."

"While the details of the stimulus package announced today are still tentative, I believe the basic plan is an excellent first step towards shoring up our economy. This package will be a much-needed shot in the arm for our economy and provide tax relief to the many middle class families who are struggling under the burden of crippling mortgages, rising unemployment, soaring health care and education costs, high local taxes, and record high energy prices."

"And just as importantly, this agreement shows the American people what happens when government functions in the

spirit of cooperation and compromise. The Democratic leadership in Congress worked with the Republican Administration to find common ground, resulting in a stimulus package that is targeted to middle class families. As I have noted throughout my time in Congress, working across party lines often results in achievements far greater than those possible through partisan politics-as-usual. For far too long, partisanship and needless bickering has stood in the way of real progress for America. The American people deserve better, and this shows that when we work together, the American people get results."

"However, while this stimulus package will provide our economy a needed short-term boost, we must also act now to strengthen our economy in the medium and long-term. That is why I firmly believe that Congress must also work to pass an infrastructure investment package. Every \$1 billion invested in our infrastructure creates and supports 47,500 good-paying American jobs. And as witnessed by the poor state of repair that many of our bridges, highways, and railways are currently in, infrastructure investment is sorely needed now. Just as the great public works projects of the 1930s created jobs and left a lasting legacy of dams, bridges, and roads still in use today, now is the time to reinvest in American workers and U.S. infrastructure to provide for the economic needs of today and tomorrow."

"Also this week, I joined with my Republican colleague from Illinois, Rep. Don Manzullo, in introducing HR 5101, a bill that would increase the tax incentive for American manufacturers who create jobs in the United States. Manufacturing jobs are essential for strengthening and expanding the American middle class. In the Chicago region - and especially in the Third District - where manufacturing has traditionally played an important role in the local economy, this bill will have a real positive impact on many working families. This proposal will expand and create jobs while ensuring that our manufacturers can afford to keep those jobs in America."

"I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for quick action on this stimulus package, while also pushing for greater investments in infrastructure and manufacturing. Working together across party lines will give American middle class families the best shot of weathering this current economic storm."