

(October 4, 2008) Southtown Star: Some Southland Pols Switch Bailout Votes

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Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-3rd) held firm to his "no" vote a second time, one of six of Illinois' 19 reps to reject the plan he said lacked oversight.

"The Senate unfortunately only added to the bill," he said on the telephone Friday. "They didn't fix all the problems with the bill or all the loopholes that are going to put the the American taxpayer on the hook for \$700 billion."

The Southwest Side congressman said he favored another economic stimulus that would have put tax money behind infrastructure and building projects.

Lipinski said he was flooded with constituent calls after Monday's vote asking him to hold his vote and requests from chambers of commerce and small business lobbies asking him to approve a bailout.

"This is not an automatic solution to all the issues we're having in our economy," he said. "No one wants to see their 401(k) go down - but I don't think that this was the solution to that."

Lipinski wouldn't comment on Weller's absence, saying only of this week's decisions, "It was probably the most difficult vote that I have cast in my two terms in Congress."