

**First Regular Session
Sixty-seventh General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. M09-0837.01 John McKay

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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 09-001

101 **MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO AMEND THE "AMERICAN RECOVERY**
102 **AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009", AND, IN CONNECTION**
103 **THEREWITH, URGING CONGRESS TO RESTRAIN SPENDING ON**
104 **PROJECTS UNRELATED TO INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS, TO**
105 **REDUCE THE FINANCIAL BURDENS IMPOSED ON SMALL**
106 **BUSINESSES BY THE CURRENT VERSION OF THE BILL, AND TO**
107 **LIMIT ALLOCATIONS TO PROJECTS AND INVESTMENTS THAT**
108 **WILL EFFECTIVELY STIMULATE THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.**

1 WHEREAS, The United States Congress is currently considering
2 passage of H.R. 1, the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of
3 2009"; and

4 WHEREAS, The cost of this so-called "stimulus package" has
5 swelled to more than \$1 trillion – more than the cost of the entire Iraq
6 War; and

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

1 WHEREAS, The version of the bill passed by the House of
2 Representatives contains, among other things:

- 3 ! \$335 million for sexually transmitted disease research;
- 4 ! \$50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts;
- 5 ! \$600 million for the federal government to purchase new
- 6 cars;
- 7 ! \$7 billion for modernizing federal buildings;
- 8 ! \$150 million for the Smithsonian Institution;
- 9 ! \$4 billion for a Neighborhood Stabilization Program;
- 10 ! \$200 million for grass replacement on the National Mall;
- 11 ! \$75 million to encourage people to quit smoking; and
- 12 ! More than \$50 billion for federal programs that have
- 13 already been criticized by either the federal Office of
- 14 Management and Budget or the federal Government
- 15 Accountability Office as being "ineffective" or unable to
- 16 pass basic financial audits; and

17 WHEREAS, While broad bipartisan support exists for additional
18 investment in transportation infrastructure and the economic activity such
19 spending would generate, less than 5% of the overall spending in H.R. 1
20 is earmarked for highway repair and reconstruction projects; and

21 WHEREAS, Forty-five other states stand to receive more funding
22 for transportation projects than Colorado will under the terms of H.R. 1,
23 as it was passed by the House of Representatives; and

24 WHEREAS, A recent analysis conducted by the Congressional
25 Budget Office determined that less than half of the funds included for
26 road and infrastructure improvements can be spent before the end of
27 fiscal year 2010 and that the bulk of the money will not be obligated until
28 even later – after, many economists believe, the recession will have
29 ended; and

30 WHEREAS, Proponents of the stimulus package claim, dubiously,
31 that it will create approximately 3 million jobs – yet even if one were to
32 accept this claim, that would mean each of these 3 million jobs would be
33 created at a cost to taxpayers of nearly \$300,000 per job; and

34 WHEREAS, H.R. 1 contains a provision requiring the payment of
35 "Davis-Bacon Act" mandated wages on all infrastructure projects,
36 disadvantaging small contractors and artificially inflating the cost of the
37 stimulus package by tens of billions of dollars; and

38 WHEREAS, The savings recognized from eliminating the
39 Davis-Bacon requirements alone would free up billions of dollars to fund
40 additional construction projects, hire more construction workers, and
41 provide working families with much needed tax relief; and

42 WHEREAS, H.R. 1 also contains billions of dollars in additional
43 spending to underwrite state and local government operating budgets,
44 rewarding the behavior of fiscally irresponsible governors, state
45 legislators, and local officials; and

1 WHEREAS, According to the United States Census Bureau, state
2 and local budgets have nearly doubled since 1998 and have grown by an
3 astounding 34% between 2003 and 2007, despite the fact that the
4 population of the United States grew by just 5% over this period; now,
5 therefore,

6 *Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Sixty-seventh General Assembly*
7 *of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:*

8 (1) It is the sense of the General Assembly that passage of H.R.
9 1 will grow the size of government far more than it will stimulate the
10 economy.

11 (2) It is the sense of the General Assembly that the best way for
12 the federal government to spur private-sector job creation is to reduce the
13 tax and regulatory burdens on small businesses, rather than redistributing
14 billions of dollars from the private sector to government programs.

15 (3) It is the sense of the General Assembly that the inclusion of
16 provisions unrelated to infrastructure spending, such as the Davis-Bacon
17 wage mandate, in H.R. 1 will impose unnecessary costs on taxpayers.

18 (4) It is the sense of the General Assembly that certain provisions
19 of H.R. 1 are designed to bail out state and local governments that have
20 engaged in profligate spending, at the expense of taxpayers in states like
21 Colorado that have enacted mechanisms such as TABOR and the
22 Arveschoug-Bird limit to curb excessive growth in government spending.

23 (5) The General Assembly urges the members of the 111th
24 Congress and the President of the United States to reject
25 noninfrastructure-related provisions of H.R. 1, which will do absolutely
26 nothing to stimulate the economy.

27 (6) The General Assembly urges the members of the United States
28 House of Representatives and Senate to stop runaway federal
29 discretionary and entitlement spending and the crushing debt it imposes
30 on future generations of Coloradans.

31 *Be It Further Resolved,* That copies of this Joint Memorial be sent
32 to each member of Colorado's congressional delegation and President
33 Barack Obama.