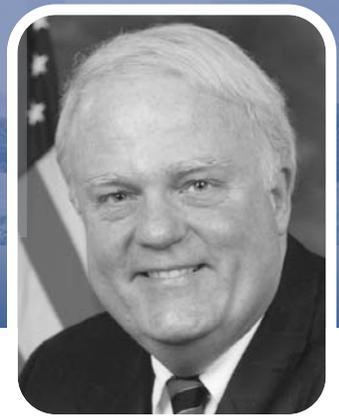




Congressman **JIM SENSENBRENNER** News From Congress

Number 183 – January 2010



Stimulate, don't Stifle the Economy

If the first stimulus didn't work, try, try again, is a terrible economic recovery plan. With our national debt surpassing \$12 trillion – essentially \$39,000 for every man, woman and child in America – Congress can't afford to be wasting taxpayer dollars. Yet we are.

Despite what President Obama says, we can't "spend our way out of this recession." It's foolish to think that spending money we don't have will make our economy bounce back. **Americans don't want more debt, they want jobs, and they've been waiting for jobs.**

The President signed the \$787 billion stimulus package into law less than one month after he took office to put Americans back to work "immediately" and keep unemployment below 8 percent.

But rather than keeping the struggling economy his number one priority, as soon as the stimulus became law, the President quickly shifted to putting government in control of health care and pushing cap-and-tax legislation that would spend \$800 billion to reduce global temperatures by approximately two-tenths of one degree over the next 100 years. I believe America will suffer as a result of these misguided priorities.

Nearly one year after the stimulus was signed, nearly an additional three million Americans have lost their jobs, unemployment has reached above ten percent, millions of people are working fewer hours, and many of the stimulus dollars that have actually been distributed, have been spent on repaving roads, raising employees pay, developing socially conscious puppet shows in Minnesota, studying the division of labor in ant colonies at the University of Arizona, helping Oregon crab fisherman recover lost crab pots, and so on – not on establishing a significant number of new jobs. This is one of the reasons why I so vehemently opposed the package – it was faulty from the beginning, filled with wish list items the Democrats had been waiting to get through for years. The reason the President held his "Jobs Summit" in December is because he realized that the stimulus failed and he had nothing to show for his massive spending besides high unemployment. Now, there's talk of a second stimulus package.

How many more Americans must lose their jobs before the Democrats realize that the way to boost the economy and create jobs is through the private sector, NOT higher taxes?

President Herbert Hoover raised taxes during a recession and it led to the worst depression in American history. Let's not let that happen.

We've seen over the last several months, that establishing more government programs – and even just talking about creating them – does not stimulate the economy, but STIFLES it. Growing government doesn't help the employees who recently lost their job. And growing government doesn't help the mom and pop shops that closed their doors because business stopped.

No employer wants to hire more employees or take a risk in a down market, when they don't know what additional taxes, regulations and added expenses the government will place on them. Offering more small business loans may seem like a solution, but no small business can get a loan if there's no market for their product or service.

Much like businesses and families are practicing fiscal discipline and living on a budget, so too must the federal government.

Republicans want to give the private sector additional tools to create jobs. We've offered solutions for the past year, and we continue to offer them in hopes that eventually the Speaker and the President will work with us. While Republicans and Democrats fundamentally disagree on taxes, given our economy, we should be able to agree that raising taxes doesn't work in tough economic times. And among other ideas, I continue to support a two-month tax holiday – so money goes to where it's needed most – the pockets of the people. **Families and business owners in Wisconsin know far more about stretching their dollar than the federal government ever will.** And businesses should not be punished with higher taxes, but rather supported with tax cuts and credits so they are able to hire more people and offer better benefits. These are meaningful solutions that have proven results.

We cannot spend our way out of the red or rush costly legislation through before examining its consequences. It only hurts us. Wisconsinites are hardworking people who I know will overcome the challenges this economy presents. I will continue to work hard at pushing the federal government to take a lesson from Wisconsin families in practicing fiscal responsibility.

Conclusions and Copenhagen

The EPA first proposed an endangerment finding on greenhouse gases just as the House was beginning to debate the Waxman Markey cap-and-tax bill. On December 7 the EPA finalized its finding that greenhouse gases threaten the public health and welfare of the American people and moved to limit carbon dioxide emissions from vehicles, power plants and factories. The EPA acted just in time for President Obama to travel to Copenhagen.

The EPA claims its process is dictated by science, however the evidence shows it's more conveniently timed to push it politics. The President first used the EPA to push Congress into action. Then, he used it to curry favor with the international community. Both actions are wrong. The President should not use the EPA as a tool to bypass the U.S. Congress and to commit the United States to politically binding carbon dioxide (CO2) cuts and international agreements.

If we wanted a realistic climate change treaty at Copenhagen, we needed to discuss the development and disbursement of technologies that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. Setting targets for greenhouse gas cuts that aren't realistic and can't be achieved by current technology is costly and guaranteed to fail.

Recent emails from prominent American and British climate researchers have raised serious questions about the integrity of the data and of the motives of some climate scientists. Months ago, I questioned the EPA's reliance on conclusions from the international community and asked it to develop independent evidence to justify its regulations. The need for independent conclusions is now stronger than ever. It was irresponsible of the EPA to proceed with its announcement in light of the emails, and in poor form for the President to rely on that announcement

overseas. This is why I have written him to request an independent investigation of the emails.

I believe the emails must be investigated before we pass climate change legislation or agree to a binding international treaty. The science must be right with climate change. Scientists can correct errors years from now as they conduct more research, but once Congress passes a law, it will be too late. We will suffer the consequences of this costly legislation, because once the milk is out, you can't put it back in the cow.



Congressman Fred Upton, Congressman Joe Barton, and Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner talk between sessions at the Copenhagen Conference on December 18 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Upon arriving, Sensenbrenner said, "I look forward to seeing these negotiations progress and will pay close attention to make sure any deal struck is a good deal for the United States. We should not repeat the mistakes made in Kyoto." Sensenbrenner led the 1997 Congressional delegation to the Kyoto, Japan climate negotiations. Sensenbrenner said the issues he would closely follow at the conference include the developing world's demands for wealth transfers, the levels of commitment from developing countries, the feasibility of greenhouse gas reduction targets and the protection of intellectual property rights.

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“Guantanamo North” is a Bad Direction

In December, the Obama Administration inched closer to bringing up to 100 terrorist prisoners being held at Guantanamo Bay (Gitmo) to the United States for detention and prosecution by acquiring the Thomson Correctional Facility in Thomson, Illinois. I couldn't disagree more with the decision.

As our Commander in Chief, the President's goal should be keeping terrorists off U.S. soil, not detaining them near our homes or giving them additional constitutional rights by holding civilian federal trials in New York City for 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and other 9/11 conspirators.

These terrorists know us and they know our system. They intend to use to their advantage the very Constitution they seek to destroy. It's no coincidence that when Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was captured, he told his captors, "I'll see you in New York with my lawyer."

We all know what justice these terrorists deserve. And despite the President apparently being able to see the future, as he recently said, "I don't think it will be offensive at all when he's convicted and when the death penalty is applied to him," as a former constitutional law instructor, the President should know that there is no guarantee that justice will be served. I have been a lawyer for more than 40 years and I am not so arrogant as to announce an outcome before the verdict's been read.

Every day, thousands of our brave men and women risk their lives in an effort to bring about peace. We should show our resolve by trying these terrorists as war criminals with a military tribunal at Gitmo, NOT treating these terrorists like a common criminal and granting them more rights and privileges.

HELP WITH A FEDERAL AGENCY

One of the most important things I do as your Representative is assist you with federal problems. I can often intervene on a constituent's behalf to answer questions, find solutions or just cut through the red tape. If you are having a problem with a federal agency, please contact my District Office in Brookfield at 262-784-1111 or 1-800-242-1119. We'll be happy to assist you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To write about issues or request publications, contact me at:

2449 Rayburn Building, Washington, DC 20515-4905
TEL: (202) 225-5101

To get help with federal agencies, contact me at:

120 Bishops Way, #154, Brookfield, WI 53005-6294
TEL: (262) 784-1111

Outside Metro Calling Area: **(800) 242-1119**
Website and email link: <http://sensenbrenner.house.gov>

Please join me at an Upcoming Town Hall Meeting or Office Hours...

In 2009, I held 60 Town Hall Meetings and 65 Office Hours, for a grand total of 125. Many of the meetings had record attendance and I appreciated everyone taking the time to attend. Below is the list of my upcoming meetings in January, February and March. I invite you to attend at a location that's most convenient for you to share what's on your mind, or just say hello and introduce yourself. I also encourage you to come if you are experiencing problems with a federal agency and need assistance. If you need any special accommodations to attend, please contact my district office at (262) 784-1111 or (800) 242-1119.

Office Hours

Thursday, January 14th

9:00am Lannon Village Hall
10:00am Sussex Village Hall
11:00am Jackson Village Hall
12:45pm Addison Town Hall
1:30pm Kewaskum Village Hall

Friday, January 15th

10:00am Newburg Village Hall
10:45am Fredonia Town & Village Hall
11:30am Belgium Village Hall
1:15pm Saukville Village Hall
2:15pm River Hills Village Hall
3:00pm Bayside Village Hall

Monday, January 18th

8:30am Helenville Fire Hall
9:15am Sullivan Village Hall
10:00am Palmyra Village Hall
11:00am Dousman Village Hall
11:45am Genesee Town Hall
12:30pm Wales Village Hall
2:15pm Nashotah Village Hall
3:00pm Merton Town Hall
3:45pm Merton Village Hall

Town Hall Meetings

Thursday, January 14th

7:00pm Elm Grove Village Hall

Saturday, January 16th

9:00am Brown Deer Village Hall
1:00pm Waukesha City Hall

Sunday, January 17th

1:00pm Hartford City Hall

Monday, January 18th

7:00pm New Berlin City Hall

Saturday, January 23rd

9:00am Pewaukee City Hall
1:00pm West Allis Public Library

Sunday, January 24th

1:00pm Port Washington Police Department

Monday, January 25th

7:00pm Richfield Village Hall

Saturday, February 6th

9:00am Grafton Village Hall
1:00pm Whitefish Bay Village Hall

Sunday, February 7th

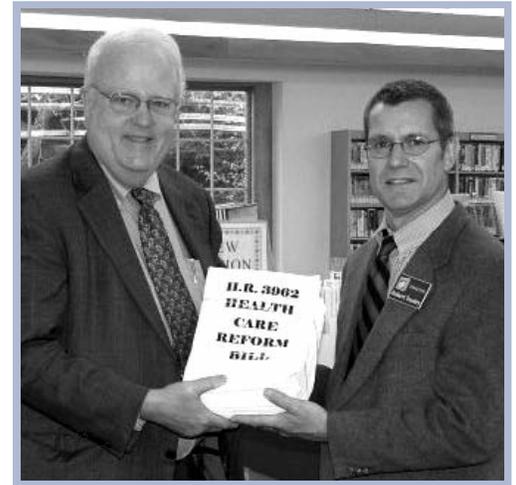
1:00pm Menomonee Falls Village Hall

Monday, February 8th

7:00pm West Bend City Hall

Saturday, March 6th

9:00am Mequon Public Safety Building



Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner dropped off a copy of H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act at the Elm Grove Public Library on Saturday, October 31, before his Town Hall Meeting. Congressman Sensenbrenner voted no on the health care legislation. Look for a health care update in the next newsletter.

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