



# Congressman JIM SENSENBRENNER

## News from Congress



NUMBER 186 – JANUARY 2011

### Contact Information:

For assistance with a federal agency, contact:

120 Bishops Way, Room 154  
Brookfield, WI 53005-6294  
Telephone: (262) 784-1111  
Fax: (262) 784-9437  
Hotline: 1-800-242-1119

To write about issues pending in Congress,  
internships, flags, or tours, contact:

2449 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-4905  
Telephone: (202) 225-5101  
Fax: (202) 225-3190

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

PUBLIC DOCUMENT  
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PRSR STD

*This mailing was prepared, published and mailed at taxpayer expense.*

Visit me online at: <http://sensenbrenner.house.gov>

## HIGH-SPEED RAIL STOPPED

Last July, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood traveled to Watertown, Wisconsin and said, "high-speed rail is coming to Wisconsin. There's no stopping it." Well, we stopped it.

After the Secretary's visit, pressure mounted even further to put the brakes on high-speed rail. In November, Governor Jim Doyle suspended all work on the project until his successor, Scott Walker, who wanted to stop the train, took office. But in early December, before Governor-Elect Walker was even sworn in, the Obama Administration decided to redistribute all but \$2 million of the \$810 million allocated to Wisconsin to projects in other states.

In the short and long run this is good for Wisconsin because our taxpayers can ill-afford the several million dollars in added expenses each year that would have likely been needed to pay for the train running from Milwaukee to Madison—a train the majority of Wisconsin residents were never going to ride.

The simple truth is that the cost of the train was most likely understated, while ridership was most likely overstated in projections—an expensive combination for a state already \$2.5 billion in debt and where taxpayers are stretched thin enough. Furthermore, with our nation facing a more than \$1.6 trillion deficit and nearly \$14 trillion debt, this train would have been a waste of money that would have done little to nothing to lower unemployment over the long-term or raise revenue for the state.

In my opinion, the D.C. Metro system and AMTRAK are clear indicators of what would have happened had Wisconsin

"invested" in high-speed rail. This past June, the Washington, D.C. Metro increased ridership fares by 18 percent to cover its \$189 million deficit, one of two fare increases in 2010. And since AMTRAK's inception in 1971, it has spent \$40+ billion of taxpayer money, yet never turned a profit. In 1997, AMTRAK pledged to fund itself by 2003, however, AMTRAK still receives taxpayer-funded subsidies.

With all that said, just as Wisconsin can't afford this train, neither can America. I'm frustrated the Obama Administration decided to redistribute this money to other states, instead of using it to pay down the deficit. This past November, I introduced a bill in Congress that would have granted states the ability to return federal funds obligated to high-speed rail projects to the U.S. Treasury so that money could instead be used to reduce our nation's deficit. I think this legislation would have better empowered states to prioritize spending and would have allowed Wisconsin the opportunity to lead in the effort to restore order to our nation's fiscal house—instead of continuing down the current path of reckless spending.

I have long encouraged all governments, including the federal government, to get their fiscal houses in order, because I believe that having nearly half of our government financed by foreign creditors is unacceptable, irresponsible and hurtful for future generations. I will continue to advocate for this in the new Congress. If a government spending project, such as the high-speed rail, is not self-sustaining, then especially during these tough economic times, we must make a point to cut wasteful government spending and practice financial restraint—in Wisconsin and across the country.



## Please join me at Upcoming Town Hall Meetings and Office Hours

In 2011, I'm looking forward to holding many Town Hall Meetings and Office Hours throughout the Fifth District. The 112<sup>th</sup> Congress is sure to present many important topics that might have an impact on you, so I welcome and encourage you to attend one or more of these meetings. I also invite you to come if you are experiencing problems with a federal agency and need assistance. If you need any special accommodations, please contact my Brookfield Office at (262) 784-1111.

### Saturday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. Hartford City Hall  
1:00 p.m. Brown Deer Village Hall

### Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>

1:00 p.m. Pewaukee City Hall

### Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. Kewaskum Village Hall  
10:00 a.m. Addison Town Hall  
10:45 a.m. Jackson Village Hall  
12:45 p.m. Sussex Village Hall  
1:30 p.m. Lannon Village Hall  
2:30 p.m. Butler Village Hall  
7:00 p.m. Mequon Public Safety Building

### Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>

1:00 p.m. Hartland Village Hall

### Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. Newburg Village Hall  
9:45 a.m. Fredonia Town & Village Hall  
10:30 a.m. Belgium Village Hall  
11:30 a.m. Saukville Village Hall  
1:15 p.m. River Hills Village Hall  
2:00 p.m. Fox Point Village Hall  
2:45 p.m. Bayside Village Hall

### Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>

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

### Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>

9:00 a.m. Johnson Creek Village Hall  
1:00 p.m. New Berlin City Hall

### Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. Oconomowoc City Hall  
1:00 p.m. Shorewood Village Hall

### Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

1:00 p.m. Germantown Village Hall

### Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

7:00 p.m. West Allis Public Library

### Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. Cedarburg Police Dept.  
1:00 p.m. Waukesha Public Library

### Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

2:30 p.m. Slinger Village Hall

### Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. Port Washington Police Dept.  
1:00 p.m. Richfield Village Hall

### Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

7:00 p.m. Brookfield Public Safety Building

### Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

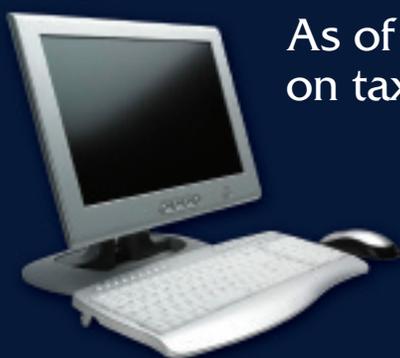
7:00 p.m. Wauwatosa Public Library

### Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

9:00 a.m. West Bend City Hall  
1:00 p.m. Whitefish Bay Village Hall

### Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

1:00 p.m. Menomonee Falls Village Hall



As of press time for this newsletter, the compromise on tax cuts was still being decided...

If you'd like to be updated about that and other important issues in Congress via email, please go to my website, <http://sensenbrenner.house.gov> and sign-up for my E-News.

<http://sensenbrenner.house.gov>