



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

For Immediate Release

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Rep. Shuler Statement on Conference Report of Stimulus Package

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Representative Heath Shuler today released the following statement after voting against the conference report on H.R. 1, the economic stimulus package.

“We all agree that action must be taken to stimulate our economy. However, I continue to disagree with the course of action laid out in this bill. Its focus should have been solely on programs that offer an immediate economic impact -- like extending unemployment insurance -- and investments in our nation’s infrastructure, which have a rate of return of 6 to 1. While this final bill does provide some funding in those areas I am remarkably concerned that only 3.4% of the funding in this package goes toward repairing our country’s highways and bridges. More specifically, across the country there are currently transportation projects totaling \$64 billion that could be under contract within 180 days, yet this bill provides only \$27.5 billion for those projects.”

“In the end, this bill simply contained entirely too much spending in areas that will not provide an immediate stimulative effect to our nation’s economy. With our national debt approaching \$11 trillion we should not be borrowing hundreds of billions of dollars without careful and deliberate consideration.”

“Additionally, I am remarkably disappointed in House leadership for bringing a bill of this size and magnitude up for a vote without giving members adequate time to review it fully. We must have a greater respect for this institution and for its Members.”

Background

Shuler introduced legislation in the 110th Congress, H.Res. 484, to require all legislation be posted on the Internet for 48 hours before it is considered on the House floor.

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