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[COMMITTEE PRINT]

NOTICE: This is a draft for use of the Committee and its staff only, in preparation for markup.

Calendar No. 000

111TH CONGRESS }
1st Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
111-000

MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR JOB PRESERVATION AND CREATION, INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT, ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND SCIENCE, ASSISTANCE TO THE UNEMPLOYED, AND STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL STABILIZATION, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

JANUARY 00, 2009.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. INOUE, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 0000]

The Committee on Appropriations reports the original bill (S. 0000) making supplemental appropriations for job preservation and creation, infrastructure investment, energy efficiency and science, assistance to the unemployed, and State and local fiscal stabilization, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes, reports favorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

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SUMMARY OF THE BILL

The Committee recommends discretionary appropriations of \$350,037,825,000 and mandatory appropriations of \$16,562,000,000 to assist in the economic recovery of and reinvestment in America. The bill represents the first step in revitalizing our Nation's economy. The fundamental principle behind the legislation is to use the resources of the Federal Government as one means to reinvigorate the engine that is the United States economy.

All economists agree that the Nation is facing one of the most dire economic crises in our history. Over the past 2 months more than 1 million jobs have been lost. Nothing indicates that similar job losses won't continue unless the Federal Government acts. While forecasters differ on specifics, many believe that without quick and decisive action the Nation could suffer up to an additional 5 million job losses over the coming year.

The measure reported by the Committee is designed to help stem the tide of job losses and mitigate economic turmoil. It is agreed that this is only one tool that will be needed to turn around our economic woes, but it is an important response to the emergency conditions extant in the country.

In fashioning this bill the Committee has focused on spending our Nation's dollars on worthwhile projects which both benefit the American people on their merits and will also lead to an increase in jobs. Based on information supplied by experts both within and outside of Government, the Committee estimates this bill will lead to the employment of more than 4 million individuals.

The overarching goal of this measure is to return our unemployed workers to the workforce where they can help prime the economy. Equally important is to invest either in beneficial projects which have been planned and approved by Federal officials, and are ready to begin, but for which funds have been unavailable, or to invest in new technology that can help stimulate commercial business using this initial investment from the public sector. Funding is also included to address the economic dislocation occurring in our States with direct assistance recommended for food stamps, education, and other programs to offset the increased demands which are jeopardizing our States' economies.

In general, the funding provided herein is temporary. It will address short-term needs and is intended to be expended quickly. The bill has been crafted with the goal of minimizing any requirement for continued Government spending in the areas supported. Investment in infrastructure by its nature is a one time cost. Increases for programs as varied as food stamps, loan guarantees, and education, for example, are being made available with the clear understanding that the level of resources provided in this measure will not be sustained in the future. Attention has also been paid to holding down permanent increases in Federal employees. This is a jobs bill, but not for new Federal Government jobs. However, to ensure effective management of this significant infusion of funding many agencies will be afforded small increases in workforce.

With this large influx in Federal spending, the Committee wants to ensure that it has taken steps to improve oversight of the funds

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in this bill. Therefore, the Committee is recommending \$117,000,000 to increase the resources of agency Inspectors General and the Government Accountability Office. In addition, the Committee has included legislative language to establish a new board within the executive branch which will be charged with oversight of the funding provided in this bill. Furthermore, the Committee has included requirements as described throughout this report for Federal agencies to include expenditure plans prior to obligating the funds made available in this bill. Additional reporting requirements have also been mandated to ensure greater accountability for the funds recommended.

Rapid passage of this bill is an essential ingredient in the success of this plan. As noted above, last month an additional 500,000 American citizens lost their job. By joining the ranks of the unemployed these individuals are now adding to the cost of our Nation's safety net and straining our Nation's resources instead of contributing to its economic growth. They are likely to struggle to meet their families' needs, and they may be forced to curtail their own spending once again draining resources from our economy and threatening more jobs.

The country is enmeshed in a grave crisis. It is imperative that the Federal Government use all means at its disposal to address the problems. While the investments made in this measure will very clearly add to the deficit, the Committee believes that failure to act expeditiously could lead to even greater deficits and economic problems for the Nation for years to come.

With each passing week that the Congress fails to address our economic problems, additional thousands will continue to join the ranks of the unemployed. Inaction will only add to our challenges. This measure is only one step but it is a very important step in addressing this problem.

In the narrative which follows the Committee identifies the specific spending proposals to put America back to work.

In addition, the Committee is requiring, in section 1605 of this act, certification by State and local officials that the spending is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds.