



Rodney Alexander / Louisiana's 5th District
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN

THOUGHTS FROM CAPITOL HILL
January 6, 2009

Contact: Jamie
Hanks
202/225-8490

Congress Should Set Clear Example by Halting Automatic Pay Increase

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Desperate economic times may call for desperate measures, but an automatic pay increase for Members of Congress should not be on the table.

With the faltering economy and thousands of Americans losing their jobs, Members of Congress should act now to stop the next automatic pay increase from taking effect.

U.S. lawmakers routinely receive an automatic wage increase each year – a measure approved by Congress in 1989. Since then, Congress has voted to forgo the increase six times – most recently in 2007.

At a time when residents of Louisiana are sacrificing to make ends meet, I do not believe it is suitable for Congress to accept a pay raise.

America deserves better from the lawmakers they elect to serve their best interests. Congress needs to take the responsible approach and not pad our own wallets during this time of economic uncertainty.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of legislation that will stop the next automatic increase from going into effect. Today, the Stop the Congressional Pay Raise Act of 2009 will be introduced by Rep. Harry Mitchell (AZ-05) and Rep. Ron Paul (TX-14).

Working families throughout America are struggling to pay their bills, and are facing increased economic anxieties that have not been felt in this country for generations. Unemployment figures are on the rise and our national debt exceeds \$10 trillion. It is essential that Washington address these challenges – not by automatic pay increases – but by setting a clear example of our determination to cut federal spending and to put our nation's problems ahead of our own.

Passing this bill would send a clear signal that Congress shares the frustrations felt by

Americans. We must place our nation's challenges at the forefront of the 111th Congress.

U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, represents the 5th Congressional District and serves on the House Appropriations Committee and the House Budget Committee. He can be reached at the Monroe District Office (318-322-3500), the Alexandria District Office (318-445-0818) or Washington, D.C. (202-225-8490.) Visit Alexander's Web site at www.house.gov/alexander or write him at 316 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

###