OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT TO THE SPEAKER

Honorable Chris Van Hollen (MD-8)

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Van Hollen Statement on House Passage of the Economic Recovery Package

Washington, DC – Congressman Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Assistant to the Speaker, issued the following statement tonight on passage by the House of Representatives of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act:

"After years of partisan gridlock, this bill signifies that the new Obama Administration and Congress are committed to working together in the best interest of the country again. I am proud the House of Representatives took a huge step today in providing critical economic relief to American families, businesses, state and local governments.

"The American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan will save and create approximately 4 million jobs. The plan will make important investments in America's transportation and infrastructure, renewable energy, schools, broadband technology and health care. These investments will reduce unemployment and benefit America's long-term economic growth.

"I am particularly pleased this emergency legislation includes measures I worked on with Congressman Wamp (R-TN) to provide loan guarantees for renewable energy and transmission projects that have been sidelined due to the credit crunch, as well as an initiative to create a Home Energy Savings Revolving Fund that homeowners can access for low-cost financing of energy-savings retrofit investments. Additionally, a bi-partisan measure I worked on with Congressman Platts (R-PA) was included to ensure that funds are effectively spent, not lost through waste, fraud or abuse, by increasing the bill's whistleblower protections.

"This is just one step in an ongoing process to jumpstart our economy. I look forward to the Senate taking action and continuing to work with the Administration and my Republican colleagues to immediately address this crisis. We must not delay this urgent action, the American people need to know help is on the way."

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