

## **STIMULUS WATCH: WEEK 12**

### ***Minneapolis Spends \$2 Million of Stimulus Funds on a Dance Center, but Passes on an Opportunity to Help Create 360 Manufacturing Jobs***

- The Minneapolis City Council recently voted to use federal stimulus funds to convert a vacant 99-year-old theater into a center of dance instead of funding a solar-energy-panel manufacturing plant that would have created 7 times as many jobs. The center of dance project will cost 2 million stimulus dollars and only create 48 permanent jobs according to the City. Interestingly, in the [Spring Newsletter](#), the theatre estimated that completing the project would actually only create 26 full and part-time permanent jobs. At only 26 jobs, each permanent job would cost \$76,923 to create.
- The solar-energy-panel manufacturing plant that was in competition for the stimulus funds received less than 300 thousand dollars, compared to the dance center's 2 million. Yet, the plant would have created more than 360 jobs by 2011. Because of the insufficient funds the Council appropriated to the plant, their chief executive officer indicated the plant could not be opened in Minneapolis.
- Councilman Paul Ostrow was the single councilman to vote against the center of dance saying, "the theater wasn't creating enough jobs to qualify for stimulus money, whereas the solar-energy plant clearly fit the president's goals... It was a home run."
- Under the House Republican Stimulus Alternative, \$2 million of the taxpayer's money would not have been spent to convert a vacant 99-year-old theater into a center of dance. Instead, Republicans would have created twice as many jobs at half the cost. To learn how visit: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/Jobs/>
- **Source:** ["Some projects raise question: Where's the stimulus?"](#) (LA Times, 6/14/09)

**The Washington Watch Report is available on the House Republican Whip's website: <http://republicanwhip.house.gov/WashingtonWatch/>.**

**It is updated weekly with new items of wasteful stimulus spending, a look at jobs created by the stimulus, and a video of Members discussing specific examples.**