

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District For Immediate Release July 31, 2009

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Rep. Shuler Votes to Extend 'Cash-for-Clunkers'

Washington, D.C. – Rep. Heath Shuler voted with an overwhelming House majority to add \$2 billion to the cash-for-clunkers program, which was designed to remove gas guzzlers from the highways and stimulate U.S. auto sales.

The program, which provides up to \$4,500 to trade in vehicles for new ones that get better gas mileage, proved far more successful than expected. The Car Allowance Rebate System (CARS) program started Monday but exhausted its \$1 billion funding by Friday.

Today, the House voted 316-109 to add \$2 billion to the program in hopes of extending it to more consumers. Rather than paying to extend CARS by adding to the federal deficit, this bill transfers money from an Energy Department program that was included in this year's stimulus bill, said Rep. Shuler, D-Waynesville.

"I voted against the stimulus bill because it didn't do enough to give a quick boost to the economy and added to the federal deficit," Rep. Shuler said. "The CARS program shows that government incentives can work, and has not only has stimulated car sales and the U.S. economy, but helped the environment by ridding our highways of some old gas guzzlers."