

BIPARTISANSHIP: SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

“Unfortunately, some of my colleagues seem determined to oppose the stimulus bill almost no matter what is done.”

– Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME), NBC Nightly News, 2/7/09

“Three out of four poll respondents said that Obama is doing enough to cooperate with Republicans in Congress, but only 39 percent feel that congressional Republicans are cooperating enough with the president”

– CNN/Opinion Research Corp., [2/9/09](#)

“Minority Leader John Boehner (R-Ohio) urged his Conference Tuesday morning to vote against the economic stimulus bill... just hours before Republican Members are set to meet with President Barack Obama at the Capitol to discuss the \$825 billion legislation.”

– Roll Call, [1/27/09](#)

House Republicans are clearly playing games to cover their opposition to critical economic recovery legislation and their lack of a serious alternative. President Obama is trying to reach out in good faith to work with Republicans, and in return Republican Leader Boehner told his members to oppose the President before even hearing what he had to say. Like the President, House Democrats are also trying to work in a bipartisan way while accomplishing what the American people elected us to get done. Republicans, on the other hand, keep moving the goalposts on what they mean by ‘bipartisanship’ in order to block progress and have an excuse for opposing what the American people want. No matter what President Obama and Democrats do to reach across the aisle, Republicans will keep moving the goalposts and say we’re not bipartisan.

In considering the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, Democrats adhered to the spirit of bipartisanship in the following ways:

- Held hearings in December
- Included tax cuts supported by Republicans
- Held mark-ups in three committees in which Republican amendments were adopted
- Allowed opportunities for Republicans to offer amendments on the Floor
- Allowed votes on both a Republican substitute and a motion to recommit

In fact, the current Democratic Majority has an extensive history of crossing party lines to best address the interests of the American people.

Under a Republican President, Democrats Established a Record of Acting in a Bipartisan Way

In 2006, when Democrats gained majorities in both the House and Senate, a Republican President still occupied the White House. Throughout the 110th Congress, leaders of the Democratic majority worked with President Bush and the Republican minority to reach compromise and enact major legislation on behalf of the American people:



Prepared by the Office of Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, 2/10/09

<p>Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008</p>	<p>“I appreciate the efforts of House and Senate Democratic and Republican leaders to bring a spirit of bipartisan cooperation to these discussions. Our Nation's economic well-being is an issue that transcends partisanship.” [President George W. Bush, radio address, 9/27/08]</p>
<p>Economic Stimulus Act of 2008</p>	<p>“The single most important ingredient of the economic stimulus package now before Congress is speed...<u>President George W. Bush and the Democratic leadership of the House clearly understand this. Bush and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi have already agreed</u> on a measure.” [News Tribune Editorial,1/27/08]</p>
<p>Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act</p>	<p>“[The new FISA bill] also provides some welcome evidence that congressional leaders remain <u>capable of achieving delicate compromise in the national interest.</u>” [Washington Post Editorial, 7/20/08]</p>
<p>Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2008 (the Iraq war supplemental)</p>	<p><u>“The bill is a result of close collaboration between my administration and members of both parties on Capitol Hill.</u>...I want to thank House and Senate leadership and leaders of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees.” [President George W. Bush, remarks on signing bill into law, 7/2/08]</p>