

Washington, DC -- U.S. Rep. Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) voted for legislation today to address the current economic crisis through infrastructure improvements, aid to states and localities, tax cuts for the middle class and investments in education.

“The truth is we need to get the economy moving again, and this approach, although not perfect, is a step in the right direction,” **Arcuri said**. “I wish this legislation included more funding for infrastructure, more aid to the states and school construction, but as local unemployment numbers tell us – we need action now. I will keep the pressure on the Governor and localities to use federal funds for local projects that are shovel ready and I promise to continue to fight for these local priorities.”

This afternoon, Arcuri voted for, and the House of Representatives passed, the conference report on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (the final Economic Recovery Package), H.R. 1. Arcuri also voted for the Republican Motion to Recommit.

“The passage of this legislation is not the end of our recovery, it is only the beginning,” **Arcuri continued**

. “We will have to make changes and address new challenges as they arise, but inaction now is not an option.”

In the last year, from December 2007 to December 2008, the unemployment rate in New York State rose from 4.6% to 6.8%. In the 24th Congressional District unemployment rates are up by even more, resulting in a total of nearly 36,000 people out of work.

### Number Unemployed

Dec 07 / Dec 08 Unemployment Rate

Dec 07 / Dec 08

New York State 449,700 / 652,300 4.7 / 6.8

Broome 4,600 / 6,900 4.7 / 7.1

Tioga 1,200 / 1,900 4.5 / 7.2

Herkimer 1,700 / 2,400 5.4 / 7.7

Oneida 5,100 / 7,400 4.7 / 6.7

Cayuga 2,000 / 3,100 5.0 / 7.4

Chenango 1,300 / 2,000 5.6 / 8.2

Cortland 1,400 / 2,200 5.8 / 9.1  
Otsego 1,600 / 2,300 5.1 / 7.3  
Seneca 800 / 1,200 4.9 / 6.9  
Ontario 2,700 / 3,800 4.8 / 6.8  
Tompkins 1,700 / 2,600 3.1 / 4.7

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$60 billion for critical investments in infrastructure projects, including water systems, roads and bridges, and rural broadband. This is \$10 billion more than the funding included in the original House bill.

Included in the bill is \$4 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Grant and Loan Funds, which provides funding to states that distribute funds to municipal governments to fund water system improvements. New York State will receive roughly \$431 million for water infrastructure, more than 10% of the total funding.

Projects like the Oneida County and City of Utica water projects will be eligible for CWSRF funding when they are “shovel ready.” Earlier this week, Arcuri and Senator Schumer sent a letter to Governor Paterson urging him to use federal funds for these projects. The bill also includes \$1.38 billion for rural wastewater and water projects in communities of less than 10,000 residents nationwide, such as Owasco and Dolgeville.

### Additional transportation and infrastructure investments in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act include:

- \$26.8 billion for highways and bridges, with \$1.12 billion for road and bridge construction and improvement in New York State;
- \$6.7 billion for transit agencies to make capital improvements (i.e. buy buses), with \$967 million for New York State to benefit not only urban districts, but also rural communities.
- \$8 billion dollars for high speed rail;
- \$7 Billion for broadband development in rural and other underserved areas;

Arcuri worked with House leadership and the Obama Administration to ensure that the final economic recovery package includes a Buy America provision stating that none of the funds in the bill can be used for the construction or repair of a public building or public work unless all of the iron, steel, and manufactured goods used in the project are produced in the U.S. This provision benefits steel companies like Nucor Steel in Auburn.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act also contains tax relief for working families, small businesses, veterans and seniors

The Make Work Pay Tax Cut would provide tax relief to 95 percent of American workers. Under this tax credit, in the next two years, working families and individuals will see extra money go into their paycheck every week. Individuals across the country making less than \$75,000 and couples making less than \$150,000 will be able to withhold less.

The bill also includes AMT relief which will protect 42,000 individuals in the 24th Congressional District from paying higher taxes this year.

To help local small businesses faces with economic uncertainty, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act bonus depreciation provisions allow small businesses to continue writing-off their equipment costs at a faster rate. Businesses will immediately be allowed to claim 50% of the cost of depreciable property on their tax returns, which includes equipment, tractors, wind turbines, solar panels, and computers. This will allow small businesses to recover more quickly from new equipment costs and turn their focus on providing enhanced goods and services to customers.

To further help counties in the 24th Congressional District faced with severe budget shortfalls, the Economic Recovery Package includes direct assistance to individual counties through relief from Medicaid costs and to individual school districts to address unfunded mandates and begin stalled construction projects. Medicaid (FMAP) and education funding for the counties will alleviate budget pressures, freeing up resources at the county level for critical needs like water and sewer and local transportation projects. New York State will receive an additional \$3 billion over the next two years for school modernization and improvements.

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