

## House Democrats unveil \$825B economic stimulus plan

Jan. 19 -- House Democrats unveiled an \$825 billion economic stimulus bill Jan. 15 that includes more than \$50 billion for clean energy and energy conservation projects and \$6 billion to fund water and wastewater infrastructure improvements.

Democrats said the bill would create and save between 3 million and 4 million jobs, while jumpstarting the economy.

Republicans derided the bill as excessively costly, potentially creating budget deficits for generations.

Democrats want to spend \$32 billion transforming the nation's energy transmission, distribution and production systems by improving the power grid and investing in renewable energy technology.

Their plan would make \$16 billion available to repair public housing, including making key energy efficiency retrofits.

House Democrats also want to make \$6 billion available to modest-income families to help pay costs for weatherizing their homes.

The plans call for making \$2 billion available in loans and grants to companies manufacturing advanced vehicle batteries and battery systems.

Schools, local governments and municipal utilities would be eligible for another \$1.5 billion for energy efficiency grants and loans.

And the government wants to encourage consumers to buy new Energy Star appliances by making \$300 million available in rebates.

Democrats want to dedicate \$2.4 billion for carbon capture and sequestration technology demonstration projects.

Their package also calls for a \$6 billion investment in the nation's Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which makes funds available to local communities for upgrading their water and wastewater infrastructure.

Funding would also be dedicated to: replacing older government owned vehicles with alternative fuel automobiles; industrial energy efficiency demonstration projects; diesel emissions reduction projects, and development of electric transportation vehicle technologies.

The full text of the 258-page bill is available online at <http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/RecoveryBill01-15-09.pdf>.

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