

DAVID G. REICHERT
8TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

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COMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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September 26, 2008

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

Less than one hour ago, the House had an opportunity to consider broadly supported, bipartisan compromise legislation (the Senate-amended H.R. 6049) that would extend critical provisions like the state sales tax deduction, tax credits for renewable and alternative energy, and increase funding for the Secure Rural Schools program. The compromise even included legislation I helped introduce to grant tax fairness for victims of the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill when they receive their long overdue compensation from the company. Unfortunately, we were denied the opportunity to vote on this important compromise measure, jeopardizing billions of dollars in tax relief for middle class families, funding for schools and cops in rural America, and incentives for the development of new energy solutions.

None of these provisions are controversial; in fact, they enjoy a long history of bipartisan, bicameral support. That's why I'm so deeply disappointed that you ignored our Senate colleagues, who informed us before the vote that the package put forward in the House was "dead on arrival." Time is running out to approve many of these expiring provisions and programs, and they are too important to my state, district, and constituents to be held hostage by politics.

I urge you to accede to the Senate compromise legislation and swiftly enact this measure before Congress adjourns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D Reichert". The signature is stylized and cursive.

DAVID G. REICHERT
Member of Congress