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TALKING POINTS

THE DEMOCRATS' SUPPLEMENTAL TWO-STEP (PART TWO) (HR 2207)

H.R. 2207 – the second part of the Democrats' recycled supplemental spending bill – provides more than \$4.5 billion in unrequested, non-emergency spending. These are the identical spending additions included in the emergency war supplemental bill (H.R. 1591) vetoed by the President. Because this spending is not a real emergency (though it is designated as such), and because it is not offset, the President has indicated he would veto the bill.

- ***The Bill Violates PAYGO.*** The bill violates the Democrats' own pay-as-you-go [PAYGO] rule by adding more than \$6 billion in new direct spending over the 2007-17 period, without offsets.
- ***It Adds Agriculture Spending That is Neither Urgent Nor Unforeseen.*** H.R. 2207 provides an estimated \$3.5 billion for a broad range of agriculture assistance – much of for mandatory 2002 farm bill programs – and is not offset by reductions in other lower priority agriculture spending.
 - This bill provides funding for crop disaster insurance, the Milk Income Loss Contract program (which has a cost of more than \$2 billion over 2007-17), dairy assistance, and the Conservation Security Program, among others.
 - In particular H.R. 2207 would fund \$3.3 billion in agriculture disaster assistance for crop years 2005, 2006, and part of 2007. Most of these crops already receive Federal production subsidies through the 2002 farm bill. In addition, ad hoc disaster assistance for these losses is already subsidized through Federal crop insurance and related programs.
- ***It Designates Other Phony Emergencies.*** H.R. 2207 would also provide approximately \$985 million in discretionary funding for a variety of non-emergency domestic programs, including:
 - Assistance to salmon fisheries in parts of California and Oregon (\$60 million).
 - Wildfire suppression (\$500 million).
 - A one-year extension for county payments under the Secure Rural Schools program (\$425 million).

These expenditures do not meet any reasonable definition of emergency and should be funded as part of the regular 2008 appropriations process.