

Update

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 8 ♦ SUMMER 2008



Dear Friend,

Americans are struggling to meet the needs of their families in this challenging economy, making it very difficult to pay for gas, groceries, health care and even their homes.

Over the past several months, we have worked in Congress to address issues of concern to San Francisco and the nation. The New Direction Congress passed an economic stimulus plan to help working families, to provide recovery rebates for 130 million households and to create 500,000 jobs. In California, 14.7 million families are receiving an average rebate of \$844. But this was just a first step.

We cannot talk about the challenges to our economy without focusing first on the astronomical price at the pump. The Congress is working to make America less dependent on foreign oil, lower record gas prices and ensure greater energy independence.

The Congress passed legislation addressing the housing foreclosure crisis, preventing more families from losing their homes. In April, I hosted a workshop to provide counseling and information for homeowners to prevent foreclosure.

We also passed a farm bill that provides an important first step in reforming America's farm policies and a giant leap forward in helping Americans who are struggling with the high cost of groceries and gasoline.

We have listened to San Franciscans and so many Americans and join with you in demanding a New Direction in Iraq, one that will bring our troops home safely and soon. Our efforts have been resisted repeatedly.

Every day we are reminded of the cost of war – in the lives of the more than 4,000 brave troops we have lost, and in the missed opportunities of providing more in investments in our economy and investments in the veterans who return. I am very proud of the work we have done to invest in the future of our veterans, who deserve our respect and resources for the sacrifices they have made on our behalf.

We remain focused on our New Direction goals of fiscal responsibility, rebuilding the economy, reducing the cost of health care and reducing global warming. As always, I look forward to hearing from you on these and other issues of concern.

Sincerely, *Nancy Pelosi*



CONGRESSWOMAN PELOSI CUTS THE RIBBON AT THE OPENING OF FORT BAKER AS A NATIONAL PARK IN JUNE.

REBUILDING OUR ECONOMY

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY REBATE?

On February 7, 2008, Congress passed the Economic Stimulus Act. This law generally provides for a minimum recovery rebate of \$300 for taxpayers with earned income of at least \$3,000 (\$600 for married taxpayers filing joint returns). Individuals who normally do not file a tax return will need to file to qualify. To receive a recovery rebate check this year, eligible taxpayers must file an income tax return by October 15, 2008.

You may be eligible for a recovery rebate payment. For more information, go to www.irs.gov or call the IRS Taxpayer Assistance Center in San Francisco at (415) 522-4061.

the 110th Congress has listened to your concerns about making ends meet for your family and has worked to address them. In May, Congress put recovery rebate checks in the hands of 130 million U.S. households in order to provide assistance to families struggling every day. However, Congress is very aware that the strain of this economic downturn demands more action. In June, we worked to extend unemployment insurance benefits to the growing number of Americans looking for work. Housing and energy independence have been two areas of particular focus to rebuild the economy:

PROTECTING OUR RIGHT TO HOUSING

Families across the country are confronting a sluggish economy and a housing crisis that threatens the American Dream of home ownership. While the 110th Congress is acting to strengthen the housing market and the economy, we must do more.

While San Francisco, aided by a strong local economy, has avoided the worst of the housing crisis, there are families in the City and communities throughout the Bay Area that have not been so fortunate. Earlier this year I hosted a foreclosure assistance workshop to help these homeowners.

In Washington, the House of Representatives has passed legislation to respond directly to the housing crisis, including:

- A comprehensive foreclosure crisis bill to prevent families nationwide from losing their homes;
- Reform of the Federal Housing Administration, expanding access to affordable mortgages, and to "reverse mortgages" for seniors who need equity from their homes;
- A bill helping states and localities purchase and rehabilitate foreclosed homes to stabilize communities.

The House and the Senate are working out the differences between their housing bills. We will continue to work in a bipartisan manner to stabilize the housing market and assist those who face the threat of losing their homes.

CONGRESSWOMAN PELOSI DISCUSSES AVAILABLE RESOURCES WITH PARTICIPANTS AT HER HOUSING FORECLOSURE ASSISTANCE AND PREVENTION WORKSHOP.



ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

I have made working toward energy independence the flagship of my Speakership. The Democratic-led Congress is moving in a New Direction for Energy Independence – to lower gas prices, make America more secure, and launch a cleaner, smarter, more cost effective energy future that creates hundreds of thousands of green jobs and reduces global warming.

San Francisco faces some of the highest gas prices in the nation. The New Direction Congress is working to combat those record prices at the pump. We already enacted into law the temporary suspension of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to put more oil on the market, which will drive down gas prices. We passed historic energy legislation with provisions to combat oil market manipulation, promote the use of more affordable American biofuels, and increase fuel efficiency to 35 miles per gallon in 2020 – the first congressional increase in more than three decades. We are cracking down on price gouging by oil companies, telling those companies to use or lose the 68 million acres they have already leased where they are not currently drilling, and reducing public transit fares for commuters forced out of their cars by gas prices.

We will continue to work on solutions to reduce both the price at the pump and our dependence on foreign oil.



CONGRESSWOMAN NANCY PELOSI TOURS THE SAN FRANCISCO FOOD BANK WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PAUL ASH.

HONORING OUR VETERANS



CONGRESSWOMAN PELOSI THANKS VETERANS FOR THEIR SERVICE AT SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES' MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE.

The 110th Congress is taking America in a New Direction, providing real support for our veterans, including a new GI education bill and the largest veterans funding increase in history.

A new GI Bill will make veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan part of a new American economic recovery, just like after World War II. The original GI Bill of 1944 launched millions on a course to achieving the American Dream – and grew the American economy after a draining war. It returned \$7 to the economy for every \$1 spent on it. Our GI Bill for the 21st century restores a full, four-year college education for Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

We also provided the largest increase in veterans' health care and services in the history of the VA last year, totaling nearly \$12 billion, to meet the needs of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, with a new focus on those veterans returning with post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTIONS



**CONGRESSWOMAN PELOSI
TOURS THE SAN FRANCISCO
CITY COLLEGE'S NEW
MISSION CAMPUS
CHILDCARE FACILITY.**



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**A NEW VISION FOR BAYVIEW
HUNTERS POINT**

Since Hunters Point Naval Shipyard was closed in 1974, San Franciscans have been waiting for the Navy to fulfill its obligation to clean up this site.

San Francisco has been working to transform the shipyard from an economic and environmental blight into a source of jobs and economic development, parks and affordable housing for the area. However, the Navy must do its part to make this transformation a reality. President Bush proposed a sharp decrease in funding for Hunters Point cleanup in the Navy's fiscal year 2008 budget. Working with my congressional colleagues as well as Senators Boxer and Feinstein,

we secured a total amount of \$82 million. This funding puts the Navy on track to complete the cleanup and transfer of Parcel D in 2009 and Parcel B in 2010.

Several more years of sustained funding are necessary to complete the cleanup and allow the City to implement its redevelopment plan. Although President Bush has once again proposed a sharp funding decrease in fiscal year 2009, I will continue to work with my colleagues to ensure sufficient funds are available to complete redevelopment, revitalizing Bayview Hunters Point and improving the health of its residents.

Nancy Pelosi
M.C.
PRESORTED STANDARD