



Fact Sheet

BYRON L. DORGAN
CHAIRMAN

DPC Staff Contact: Erika Moritsugu (202) 224-3232
 DPC Press Contact: Barry Piatt (202) 224-2551
 Available Online: dpc.senate.gov

June 16, 2009

The Recovery Act: A Report on the Path to Progress in Utah

Creating and Saving Jobs, Boosting Household Resources, Providing Assistance for the Vulnerable in Utah

On February 13, 2009, the Senate approved the final version of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* and sent the legislation to President Obama to be signed into law (**P.L. 111-5**). The *Recovery Act* is an extraordinary response by Democrats to an inherited economic crisis unlike any since the Great Depression. The legislation represents an unprecedented effort to jumpstart our economy, create and save millions of jobs, and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can not only recover but prosper once again.

Nationwide, we have already seen companies rehiring laid-off workers, construction and renovation of facilities, and the re-starting of environmental remediation activities. And, just a few months into the two-year *Recovery Act* programs:

- **We have minimized and avoided reductions in essential services in Utah** by providing aid to help stabilize state and local budgets, protected critical safety-net programs, and saved teaching and law enforcement jobs.
- **Plans for job-creating infrastructure projects in Utah are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$191.2 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration) (as of June 2, 2009). These *Recovery Act* projects deliver jobs and make important investments in the safety of our transportation systems. [DOT Allocation Report, 6/2/2009].
- **Families and communities in Utah that have been hard-hit by the recession** can access increased unemployment benefits, assistance with health insurance premiums for those who have become unemployed, and food aid. And 900,000 households in Utah – approximately 95 percent of all families and individuals – have already begun seeing an increase in their take-home pay through the landmark Making Work Pay tax credit. The typical family will have about \$800 extra cash delivered to them in their paychecks over the next year. [The White House, 4/2/2009]

Here is a sampling of projects in Utah that have been covered by local media and press releases in the past several weeks, demonstrating the real-life impacts that the *Recovery Act* has already made for Utahns, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- ***Recovery Act* funding is being used to support 120 workers doing maintenance projects on U.S. Forest Service roads in Northern Utah.** [[Salt Lake Tribune](#), 6/9/2009]
- **Disadvantaged Utah schools will receive \$49 million in *Recovery Act* funds.** The new program is intended to help low-income Utah families get back in the job market more quickly. [[Salt Lake Tribune](#), 5/26/2009]
- **Utah will get *Recovery Act* money to help pay for overdue water systems project.** [[Salt Lake Tribune](#), 5/19/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds will go to cleaning up nuclear reactor sites.** About 6,000 cubic yards of waste – including contaminated soil, concrete and debris – will come to Utah by rail. [[The Salt Lake Tribune](#), 5/16/2009]