

WASHINGTON, D.C.— U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell today voted against the compromise House-Senate budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2009, saying the plan did not satisfy his concerns about reversing middle-class tax cuts in the midst of an economic slow-down. Despite Mitchell's nay vote, the conference report on the Democratic budget resolution, S. Con. Res. 70, passed 214 to 210.

"While I agree with many of this budget's priorities, I have serious concerns and cannot support a budget that allows key tax cuts to expire," said Mitchell.

Mitchell voted against the House Democratic budget proposal, H. Con. Res. 312, in March citing the same concerns. That proposal passed the House by a vote of 212 to 207. [Mar. 13, 2008; [Roll no. 141](#)]
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Mitchell asked Budget Committee Chairman John Spratt, D-S.C., in a February letter to extend important estate and capital gains tax cuts. In the letter, Mitchell pointed out that "these tax cuts encourage investment as well as make our tax code more fair and predictable."

Mitchell called on Republicans and Democrats to put partisanship aside and work together to demand greater accountability in government spending, cut government waste and extend tax

relief to American families. "I refuse to believe we cannot find a third way, a bipartisan way, to incorporate good ideas from both sides of the aisle," he said.

Mitchell said that while the five-year Democratic plan calls for middle class tax cuts, Congress should look at extending tax cuts that are set to expire in 2010 as well as reduce estate and capital gains taxes.

Last summer, Mitchell and U.S. Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., introduced H.R. 3170, bipartisan legislation to permanently reduce estate and capital gains tax cuts. If the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts are allowed to expire, Americans would face a 33 percent increase in the capital gains tax.