

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep Harry Mitchell today praised House Leaders for giving up the 2010 pay raise for Members of Congress. Earlier today, House leaders confirmed that, because of worsening economic conditions, House members would forego their regularly scheduled cost-of-living pay increase.

“As government acts to cap executive compensation, and as millions of Americans watch their incomes shrink, a pay raise for Members of Congress would have seemed glaringly out of touch,” Mitchell said. “If we are going to talk the talk of fiscal discipline, we must also walk the walk of self-restraint. The American people are not getting a raise this year. Neither should Congress.”

Rep. Mitchell has been pushing legislation to stop the 2010 pay increase, which had steadily built momentum and had recently gained bi-partisan support from nearly a quarter of the House membership. On the first day of the 111th Congress, Reps. Harry Mitchell, D-Ariz., and Ron Paul, R-Texas, introduced H.R. 156, the Stop the Congressional Pay Raise Act. As of Tuesday the legislation had gained 107 co-sponsors.

Foregoing the pay raise will save taxpayers an estimated \$2.5 million. Mitchell and Paul also introduced similar legislation last year to block the 2009 pay raise, which, despite gaining 34 bipartisan cosponsors, was not considered in committee and did not reach the floor of the House for a vote Mitchell offered a similar bill in 2007 (H.R. 2934) to block the 2008 pay raise, which attracted 29 co-sponsors.

The House’s actions took place on the same day that Reps. Mitchell and Paul sent a letter to the House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer and Minority Leader John Boehner asking to include H.R. 156 in the conference report for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, H.R. 1, the economic stimulus package.

“The economy is forcing the American people to tighten their belts, and this is clearly the wrong time for Congress to take a pay raise,” Mitchell said. “I want to thank House Leadership for agreeing and understanding, and for sending the right message to the nation.”

Mitchell Succeeds in Blocking Congressional Pay Raise

Monday, 09 February 2009

Mitchell donated his 2008 pay raise to Arizona charities, and will be doing the same with his 2009 pay raise.