

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Inc.
**RE: Public Support For Economic Stimulus Legislation –
Supplemental Memo**

Peter D. Hart Research Associates, Inc., has completed a national survey among voters on economic issues, with a particular focus on gauging support for a new economic stimulus bill. The survey was conducted from May 29 to June 3, 2008, among a representative national sample of 1,055 likely 2008 voters, with a margin of error of ± 3.1 percentage points, on behalf of the AFL-CIO, AFSCME, Americans United, Campaign for America's Future, SEIU, and USAction.

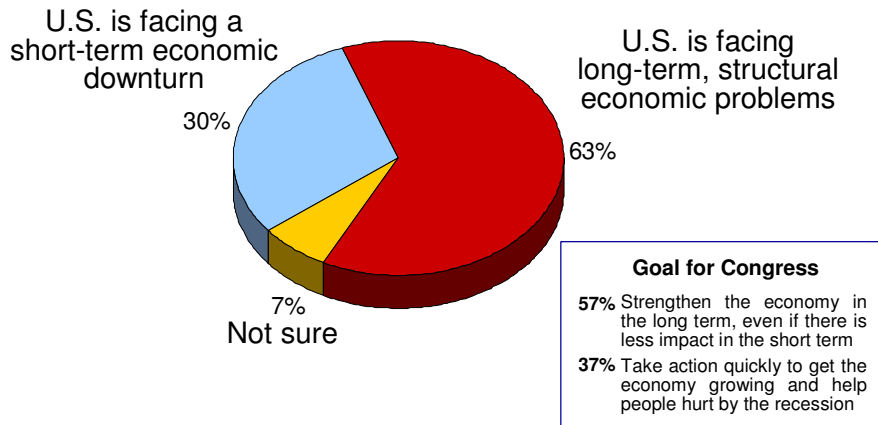
This memo is a supplement to an earlier memo that covered broader economic issues. This memo specifically focuses on voters' support for improved public investment, as well as their concern that the U.S. economy has long-term structural problems.

1) The current economic recession is seen as a long-term, structural problem by most voters.

Two-thirds (63%) of American voters believe that the economy is suffering "long-term structural problems," with only 30% saying the current recession is only a "short-term economic downturn." Congressional swing voters are particularly concerned, as nearly three in four (71%) believe the economy has long-term structural problems. Similarly, voters who rank the economy as a top priority this election year are particularly concerned (70% long-term problem). Also of note, this belief stays above 60% across all regions (67% Northeast, 64% South, 62% Midwest, 60% West).

With widespread belief that the economy is in long-term trouble, most voters want long-term solutions. A majority of Americans (57%) say Congress' bigger priority should be "strengthening the economy in the long-term, even if there is less impact in the short-term." Only 37% think Congress should instead focus on "taking action quickly to get the economy growing and help people hurt by the current recession."

Voters Expect Long-Term Economic Problems



2) Perceiving long-term economic problems, voters believe that now is the time for Congress to focus on increasing public investment to create jobs.

Half of Americans (48%) feel that “expanding public investments that create jobs” is a greater priority for Congress than reducing the budget deficit (37%). Across the nation, expanding public investment is seen as greater priority, in both “red states” (+12 points) and “blue states” (+10 points).

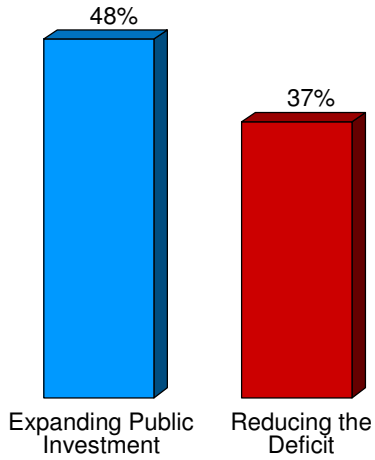
Seeing the need for long-term public investment, most voters want an economic stimulus package focused on improving the economy through investments in renewable energy and infrastructure as opposed to an agenda preoccupied with lowering taxes and reducing government spending. When presented with two partisan plans, voters side with Democrats by a margin of 12 points:

Democrats say we can improve the economy by investing in energy independence, modern infrastructure, education, and training. Public investment will generate jobs here now, and make America's economy stronger in the future (52% agree).

Republicans say we can improve the economy by reducing wasteful government spending and lowering taxes. If we let people keep more of their own money, and reward saving and investment, we will strengthen the economy (40% agree).

Congressional Priorities

In general, which do you think should be the higher priority for Congress today?



	<u>Expand Investment</u>	<u>Reduce Deficit</u>
Independents	46%	39%
Swing voters	48%	42%
Blue states	49%	39%
Purple states	48%	36%
Red states	48%	36%