



# 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](http://dpc.senate.gov)

June 16, 2009

## **The Recovery Act: A Report on the Path to Progress in Nebraska** Creating and Saving Jobs, Boosting Household Resources, Providing Assistance for the Vulnerable in Nebraska

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 Nebraska** 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 Nebraska are already planned and underway** with the Department of Transportation allocation of \$111.8 million for highway infrastructure investments (through the Federal Highway Administration); \$9.9 million for transit modernization, repair, and other capital needs (through the Federal Transit Authority); and \$4.2 million in airport grants for development projects that enhance safety, capacity and security and airport facilities and equipment upgrades (through the Federal Aviation 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 Nebraska 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 700,000 households in Nebraska – 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 Nebraska 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 Nebraskans, only four months after the enactment of the *Recovery Act*:

- **North Platte will use *Recovery Act* funds to build a new bus storage facility, improving technology.** The proposed facility would contain an open storage area for six vehicles, a wash bay and public restrooms, and would be landscaped. [[The North Platte Bulletin](#), 6/4/2009]
- **Gering Valley and Knox County will use *Recovery Act* funds to pay for water projects, prevent flooding.** Senator Nelson: “These funds will help safeguard flood-prone areas of Nebraska while creating jobs. In addition, funds for restoring land to its natural state will help our environment and provide economic stimulus to rural Nebraska communities.” “The \$2.2 million in funding for Gering Valley is part of USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service efforts to create jobs in areas most impacted economically by natural disaster. The funds will be used to increase the rate of watershed restoration and reduce the potential harmful impacts of flooding.” [[KCSR News](#), 6/2/2009]
- **Bus industry forecasts stabilizing thanks to *Recovery Act*-related orders; bus industry retaining jobs.** “The initial forecasts from a number of customers looked pretty bad,’ said Jack Schimenti, vice president of Lincoln Composites, of Lincoln, Nebraska, which makes fuel systems for bus manufacturers. Thanks to the stimulus law, forecasts are more stable now. Schimenti expects stimulus-related orders to begin late this year.” [[Fox Channel 5 News](#), 6/7/2009]
- **Wynot will receive *Recovery Act* funds to improve its water and wastewater systems.** [[Associated Press](#), 5/29/2009]
- ***Recovery Act* funds incentivized water and construction company to open new location in Omaha.** [[NAW Smartbrief](#), 5/27/2009]
- **Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality will use *Recovery Act* funds to enhance the quality and management of surface and ground water in the Platte River Basin.** “Brian McManus of the Nebraska DEQ says his agency and the state Department of Natural Resources will use the money to enhance the quality and management of surface and ground water in the Platte River Basin.” [[Associated Press](#), 5/20/2009]