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## Happy New Fiscal Year! ATR's New Year Resolutions for Policymakers

*In order for the U.S. to rebound from last fiscal year's failed policies,  
Congress and the Administration must change their ways*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Happy New Fiscal Year! Today is the beginning of the new fiscal year. FY 2009 was arguably the worst year taxpayers have seen in a long time. Bailout after bailout funded with taxpayer dollars, a trillion dollar spending and debt package passed under the guise of “economic stimulus” which nobody who voted for read, and several other big ticket bills passed without public scrutiny. ATR has put together a few New Year’s Resolutions Congress and the President should adopt for FY 2010. If implemented, the outlook would be a little brighter for taxpayers.

### **#1 - Don't raise taxes.**

President Obama repeatedly promised in 2008 and 2009 that he would not raise “any form” of taxes on families making less than \$250,000 per year. This has [already been violated](#) this past fiscal year. Both the House and Senate versions of health care legislation contain tax hikes on working families. The first and most important New Year’s resolution should be to live up to the promise President Obama made on behalf of the Democrat majority.

**#2 - Enact mandatory waiting periods and online posting requirements for all legislation and conference reports.** In light of the way recent spending bills have been rammed through Congress with little debate and accountability, Congress should enact a requirement that all bills and conference reports should be posted online for at least three consecutive days. Amendments should set back the clock. Given that 83 percent of the people say they want final bills to be posted online before Congress votes on them, and 64 percent of these 83 percent want bills online for two weeks or more, a 72-hour online posting requirement as put forth by H.Res. 554 (a bill for which a discharge petition is currently being circulated as it had been bottled up) is a modest proposal that should be enacted swiftly.

**#3 – Get out of the government bailout business and rescind the unobligated “stimulus” funds.** Efforts to rectify the fiscal recklessness of the past year come in the form of policy proposals such as Rep. Tom Price’s REBOUND Act and the Repeal the Stimulus Act, introduced by Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-Kan.). These bills would rescind all unobligated TARP and “stimulus” funds and require all repayment of TARP funds to be used for reducing the national debt. While they won’t erase the damage done by the money already wasted under the guise of economic “stimulus” they will be a strong step towards greater fiscal restraint in Congress.

### **#4 – Refrain from forcing jobs out the United States under the façade of “climate change” legislation**

The “Cap-and-Trade” bill passed that passed the House will cost the United States a million jobs and increase American families’ energy bills by \$4,600. The Senate has proposed similar legislation that

could cost Americans up to an additional \$200 billion per year. The bill that passed the House would, at best, have a negligible environmental impact while imposing catastrophic change on the American economy.

#### **#5 – Listen to the American People**

At least 615,000 people protest government spending at more than 640 “tea parties” across the country on April 15 and the White House responds with general contempt and condescension. Taxpayers from across the country converge on Washington to express their dissatisfaction with the current government – the White House responds by telling Americans they are just “wrong.” After Americans show an overwhelming disapproval of his health care plan, the President goes on a national media blitz, claiming he is “not breaking through.” President Obama should be focusing less on the rhetoric and devote more time to crafting better policy.

*Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or by email at [jkartch@atr.org](mailto:jkartch@atr.org).*

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