

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Tom Rooney (R-Fla.) released the following statement regarding Speaker Pelosi's Stimulus II bill: "Tonight Speaker Pelosi will jam through the House another bloated spending package that will do little to create new jobs in Florida. President Obama told the American people we needed the first stimulus to keep the unemployment rate below 8 percent but that misguided bill hasn't worked and now unemployment is over 10 percent. Now the Democrats are back for more, further proof that the first stimulus did not work. In addition we will have to borrow each dollar of this new spending package which just further increases the national debt.

"This legislation fails to assist those who need help the most – small business owners. The Stimulus II fails to provide tax relief and incentives for small businesses to expand and create jobs. Today I participated in a meeting of the House Republican Economic Working Group to discuss common sense economic solutions to get Floridians back to work. We must work to tear down self-imposed obstacles to growth. In today's economic climate with the threat of increased taxes, new government regulation and expensive government mandates make expanding or starting a new business a daunting task. We need to eliminate these roadblocks and make it possible for small business owners to expand their businesses.

"I have introduced common sense legislation (H.R. 3784 and H.R. 3953) with Rep. John Boccieri (D-Ohio) to give business owners tax incentives to hire the long term unemployed so hopefully a year from now the unemployment rate will have dropped."