**Senator Dean Heller**

**Floor Speech 10.13.11**

Mr. President,

This recession has hit my home state of Nevada harder than any other state in the country.

My state has the unfortunate distinction of leading the nation in unemployment, foreclosures, and bankruptcies.

As we discuss yet another stimulus and I hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle claim their priorities are jobs, jobs, jobs--- I have one question about their economic policies: ‘Is this working?’

In January 2009, President Obama was inaugurated as President and Democrats controlled both the House and the Senate. Nevada’s unemployment was at 9.4%.

The next month the stimulus was passed, its supporters claimed that national unemployment would not rise above 8%--- Nevada’s unemployment rate was 10.1%.

In June 2009 – Congress passed Cash for Clunkers and Nevada’s unemployment rose again to 12.0%.

Cash for Clunkers two was passed the following August---Nevada’s unemployment was 13.2%

In March of 2010, Congress passed the President’s health care law--- Nevada’s unemployment rose to 13.4%

In May 2010, Nevada over takes Michigan as the state with highest unemployment rate in the nation at 14%.

In July of that year Congress passed Dodd-Frank to reform the financial services industry --- Nevada unemployment is at 14.3%.

The state bailout passed in August 2010, and stimulus two the next month – Nevada’s unemployment rose to 14.4%.

Due to the lack of economic activity in Nevada, people have stopped looking for work or worse, have actually left the state for employment elsewhere. This has resulted in Nevada’s unemployment at 13.4% today.

Have these economic policies worked?

Earlier this month a readers poll in local newspaper asked, ‘Is Nevada’s economy recovering?’ 82% said ‘no.’

One of my constituents recently wrote: I am writing you today because I am outraged over the stimulus proposal that President Obama is trying to intimidate you into passing.  Despite the evidence that the first two stimulus plans have failed, despite the promises that there were  shovel ready jobs,  despite the other false promises that the first trillion would upgrade our infrastructure and keep unemployment under 8%, despite the overwhelming evidence that nearly a TRILLION dollars of taxpayer’s dollars were completely wasted in the first stimulus, this President had the audacity to demand that you immediately pass another half a trillion dollars’ worth of stimulus.  Don't do it!

It is clear that the approach this Administration and its supporters have taken for economic recovery has failed miserably. Another stimulus bill is not the solution.

We now have a string of economic policies that are big on talking points and light on solutions.

People from all over the country are struggling just to get by and are desperate for real solutions.

It is time for new ideas, and a new direction. Not more of the same.

Out of control spending, a Health Care law that no one can afford, and a seemingly endless stream of regulations are crippling employers, stifling economic growth and killing jobs.

The American public and businesses alike are waiting on a plan that can provide the stability and certainty necessary to provide confidence to the American people and bolster economic growth.

I hear some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle claim there are no ideas for job creation coming from Republicans.

Since coming to the Senate, I have repeatedly filed job related amendments when given the opportunity but have yet to see an open debate on any of these amendments.

If it is true that there are no ideas coming from Republicans then there is nothing to fear from an honest and real debate on jobs.

Instead of symbolic votes and political grandstanding, let’s actually do the difficult work and address this problem.

As I suggested to President Obama, Nevada needs a proposal that reforms the tax code, stops excessive government spending and provide the certainty businesses need to hire. Instead, the Administration and the Senate Majority has recycled the same failed policies, but this time increases taxes on the same businesses we need to create jobs.

There are a number of actions Congress can take immediately to help bolster our nation’s economy such as opening up our country to energy exploration, streamlining the permitting process for responsible development of our domestic resources, and reforming our tax code---making it simpler for individuals and businesses alike.  Cut out the special interest loopholes while reducing the overall tax burden on all Americans.

Instead of looking for new ways to tax the American public and our job creators, we should make our tax code more competitive and provide businesses the stability they need to grow and create jobs.

As I have stated before, the continual threat of tax increases feeds the uncertainty that serves as an impediment to economic growth.

These are all things that both this Administration and Congress could do immediately to boost economic recovery.

I came to Washington to make a difference---let’s start doing the work we were sent here to do.