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**Heller Introduces Pay Freeze for Members of Congress, Federal Employees**

**(Washington, DC) –** Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) introduced S.XXX, which extends the pay freeze for Members of Congress and non-military federal employees through 2014. Heller introduced similar legislation last year.

“The Silver State has been facing incredible challenges in this tough economic environment. Far too many Nevadans are forced to stay up late at night wondering how they are going to make their mortgage payment, send their child to college, or feed their family. They have been forced to tighten their belts and as our nation faces more than $16 trillion in debt, the federal government must do the same. The Senate has not passed a budget in nearly 1,400 days and Nevadans deserve better. Extending the pay freeze will allow Members of Congress to lead by example and help bring a measure of fiscal responsibility to Washington,” said Senator Dean Heller.

Last year, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released its findings from a study on the pay gap between federal government and private sector workers. The CBO found that the average federal employee earns 16 percent more in total compensation – salary, pension, and other generous benefits – when compared to private sector workers.

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