



## *Skoch2010*

### *Issues Update*

November 20, 2009

#### **Is Congressman Boozman A True Fiscal Conservative?**

In this week's email update to his constituents, Congressman John Boozman (my opponent in the May 2010 GOP primary) boasts that he voted against Obama's stimulus bill. He reports "...I am happy to say that I opposed creating an additional \$787 billion in deficit spending when I voted against it... the 'Stimulus' bill is harming our country overall by increasing our deficit and weakening the dollar. "

That's pretty impressive. But here's what John Boozman *isn't* telling us:

1) He voted **FOR** H.R. 5140, the first Economic Stimulus bill in 2008. The difference? In 2008, a Republican was president, and the Republican party supported the package. And the fact is, John Boozman is a world-class party-line voter. In the 111th Congress, John Boozman voted with his party a whopping 96.4% of the time, ranking him the #3 Republican in the entire U.S. House of Representatives for party-line voting! (Source: U.S. Congress Votes Database)

2) He voted **FOR** the \$700 billion Wall Street bail-out, despite (from his own speeches) hearing from his constituents nine to one to vote against it. His reasoning? He spoke to a former Speaker of the House, a U.S. Representative

from another state, a retired politician in Arkansas, and a Washington, DC think-tank. They said vote for it. His constituents said not to, and in the end he voted against his constituents' desires. He did explain by saying "I was afraid the banks would fail." A fundamental leadership lesson I learned a long time ago: Never make a decision based on fear. Just do the right thing.

3) He voted **FOR** increasing the national debt to over \$8 trillion. How can someone who now claims to be a fiscal conservative have voted "Yea" on that kind of a boost of the national debt?

We are pleased our congressman has decided (leading up to his first challenged election in a long time) that he ought to today claim to be fiscally conservative. But no one who has voted as he has on bail-outs, on stimulus bills, or on the national debt can (or should) make that claim.

## "Job Creation"?

Also in his "Weekly Update" this week, our U.S. Representative John Boozman suggests that "putting Americans back to work needs to be this nation's number one goal. We need to focus on job creation, job retention, and the protection of retirement savings and pensions." We absolutely agree with him on this point.

But we are sorely disappointed that he--again--shows far more followership than he does leadership when he says "I would support commonsense policies that encourage investment and entrepreneurship." Well, we do too, but we have to ask, shouldn't our congressman be the one pushing those policies? Isn't that why we elected him?

And here is legislation we would introduce right away (feel free to take this as your own, Congressman): Reduce the corporate tax rate!

Corporations are taxed at a federal rate of about 35%, and most states add about 4% on top of that. When many countries have rates as low as 10%, is it any wonder U.S. companies are relocating operations overseas?

And here's another terrible idea from the Obama administration: Our president is proposing to have U.S. corporations pay U.S. corporate taxes on all their income, instead of the current practice of paying taxes only on money they bring home to the U.S. It sounds like a great idea ("Let's tax those greedy corporations..."). But U.S. corporations with overseas operations are now drafting plans to no longer be U.S. corporations at all; they are planning to become foreign corporations with limited U.S. operations! And there will go even more jobs.

U.S. Corporations can't create jobs when they are paying corporate taxes here at a rate of four times what their competitors in other industrialized countries are paying, and corporations create jobs, not the government.

## Unemployment Benefits

And finally, let's look at our Congressman bragging that "I voted to support allowing an extension of unemployment benefits for 14 weeks for all states, and an extra six weeks for states with unemployment rates higher than 8.5 percent."

Wouldn't it be better if he had introduced meaningful legislation to truly stimulate jobs, rather than relying on a now bigger government program paying people who can't find jobs?

Until next week...

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Bernie Skoch". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bernie Skoch