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House hearing Wednesday on economic recovery plan

By Agri-Pulse Staff

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Racing to have economic stimulus legislation ready for the new President Obama to sign as soon as possible after his Jan. 20th inauguration, the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee will hear testimony from five leading economists on Wed. Jan. 7th. This kick-off congressional hearing, the day after the new 111th Congress meets for the first time, will focus on the economic outlook and how to structure an economic recovery plan to create job creation and long-term growth.

In scheduling the hearing, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) explained that “The state of our economy demands Congress act quickly to pass at the earliest date an economic recovery plan to provide immediate relief to Americans and to create or save millions of American jobs. This hearing will build upon the stimulus package the House passed in September and the numerous hearings held by our other committees, to ensure we make the necessary investments in an innovative and bold way to strengthen the economy.”

Rep. George Miller (D-CA), co-chair of the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee and Chair of the House Education and Labor Committee, added that “We know that smart, strategic investments in our nation’s infrastructure are key to getting Americans back to work and getting our economy moving forward. This hearing will help the new Congress take swift, effective action to create jobs, rebuild our economy, strengthen our competitiveness through strategic investments in education and lay the foundation for a robust and innovative future.”

Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), who co-chairs the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee with Miller, said “Families are struggling, facing times tougher than they have ever been in recent memory. This moment requires bold solutions that will drive economic growth and job creation directly. With this hearing we will examine what we need to do to get our economy moving again and how we can work together to reverse the daunting trends, jumpstart our economy and ensure our economy grows and prospers in the years ahead.”

The hearing will include testimony from:

- Dr. Mark M. Zandi, Chief economist and cofounder of Moody’s Economy.com

- Robert Reich, former Secretary of Labor and a professor at the University of California at Berkeley
- Martin Feldstein, George F. Baker Professor of Economics at Harvard University and President Emeritus of the National Bureau of Economic Research
- Norman R. Augustine, author of *The Gathering Storm*, which focused the nation's attention on the critical need for investments in basic science and research, in addition to his other accolades
- Maria Zuber, E. A. Griswold Professor of Geophysics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

#30