

## **Economic Policy**

*Congressman Upton says he supports businesses and job creation, but what does his record demonstrate?*

### **2008 – Supported underhanded permanent increase on business taxes**

HR 6049 (Roll Call 344). Voted in favor of a bill extending expiring and expired tax provisions. The bill extended tax credits for so-called “renewable” and alternative energy sources for one year while permanently increasing some business taxes. Ultimately, the bill amounted to a legislative sleight-of-hand permanent tax increase, but the bill passed May 21, 2008.

### **2008 – Supported Special Privileges for Unions**

Voted against an amendment eliminating the “prevailing wage,” or union wage requirements on military construction projects which adds billions to the project costs. The amendment was defeated August 1, 2008.

### **2007 – Supported Minimum Wage Increase**

HR 2 (Roll Call 18). Congressman Upton voted to increase the federal minimum wage by \$2.10 over two years, to \$7.25 an hour, a 41 percent increase, after rejecting provisions that would have assisted small businesses in meeting its requirements. The bill passed on January 10, 2007.

### **2000 – Supported Minimum Wage Increase**

HR 3846 (Roll Call Vote No. 45). Voted in favor of a bill increasing the federal hourly minimum wage by \$1 over two years.

### **2000 – Supported Federal Minimum Wage**

HR 3846 (Roll Call Vote No. 42). Congressman Upton voted to impose federal minimum wage standards on states despite a parliamentary ruling that the bill constituted an unfunded mandate.

**1991 – Unemployment Benefits Extension** - Vote on passage of a bill to further subsidize unemployment benefits, increasing the deficit by an estimated \$6.4 billion and reducing incentives to workers. Bill passed, 9/17/91.

### **1988 – Supported heavy regulations on Plant Closings**

Voted in support of a bill which would require businesses to give 60 days advance notification of plant closings or large layoffs regardless of circumstances. Virtually ensuring that borderline businesses would be forced out of business. Passed 7/13/88.

### **1988 – Supported override of Reagan’s veto on protectionist trade bill**

Vote to override President Reagan's veto of the protectionist Omnibus Trade Bill. The bill raised the cost of imports from countries that invest their American dollars in the U.S. economy instead of purchasing U.S. goods. The bill also included a provision requiring 60 days notification of plant closings. The bill passed, 5/24/88.

### **1987 – Supported Override of President Reagan’s veto on wasteful legislation**

Voted to override President Reagan's veto of the budget-busting bill amending and re-authorizing the Clean Water Act of 1972 which contained \$20 billion in spending through FY 1994. Override passed, 2/3/87.

**1987 – Supported massive increase to business-crushing environmental policies**

HR 1467 – Voted to authorize \$307 million over five years for the continuation of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, an act which has such extreme regulations that businesses and projects are often shut down as a result. For example, in the late 1970's the regulations put an 11 year delay on the construction of a dam in the Tennessee river, even though \$113 million had already been spent to begin construction. The entire delay came because of the discovery of a particular minnow thought to be endangered, that was later discovered to be prevalent throughout Tennessee. Similar regulations – intended to protect the mud turtle, the Houston toad, and the furbish lousewort – have also inhibited production. Despite it's effect on businesses and the economy, Congressman Upton voted for it on December 17, 1987. (*Congressional Record*, page H11647, roll call 492.)