

## ***Co-Sponsored Legislation Demanding Practice Stop and Bonuses Recouped***

**(WASHINGTON, D.C.)** – U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Colorado) today co-sponsored legislation that would require the U.S. Treasury Department to implement a plan within the next two weeks to recoup the payment of AIG bonuses, and require that any future bonus payments, of any kind, to TARP fund recipients, must be approved in advance by Treasury. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Erik Paulsen of Minnesota.

“The taxpayers have poured \$174 billion into AIG, they own 80% of the company, and the government selected the chief executive,” Coffman said. “The taxpayers deserve more than having our Treasury Secretary simply throw up his hands and say there is nothing that can be done.”

According to Coffman, one of the biggest concerns with the bailout, the stimulus, and government intervention in the private market is the stunning lack of accountability for taxpayer dollars. To date, the Administration still has not put forth a plan to show taxpayers how the government will be accountable for how their dollars are spent. Coffman feels the Administration must account for the spending of taxpayer dollars and answer the question as to why taxpayers were forced to reward some of the executives who created this mess.

“The Administration and Congressional Democrats passed executive compensation rules in the Stimulus bill specifically exempting bonuses in contracts signed before February 11 from the new rules,” said Coffman. *[See [below](#)]* “Now they claim outrage. The American people are owed a better explanation.”

“The taxpayers have been fleeced twice. First when they were forced repeatedly to bail out AIG and then when AIG paid bonuses at their expense,” Coffman concluded.

The relevant text from H.R. 1 – The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009: “The prohibition required under clause (i) shall not be construed to prohibit any bonus payment required to be paid pursuant to a written employment contract executive on or before February 11, 2009, as such valid employment contracts are determined by the Secretary or the designee of the Secretary.”