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SELECT COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL  
ECONOMIC STABILIZATION FUNDING

MEMORANDUM

OK FOR DISTRIBUTION

TO: Texas House of Representatives

FROM: Chairman Jim Dunnam

DATE: May 21, 2010

SUBJECT: Texas Unemployment Rate; Clean School Bus Program; 1512 Reporting for March 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jim Dunnam", written over a horizontal line.

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**The Texas Workforce Commission Announces Texas Adds 32,500 Jobs in April**

The Texas Workforce Commission announced the unemployment rate for Texas today, and Texas unemployment rate rose from 8.2% to 8.3% in March (these are the seasonally adjusted numbers). This follows the national increase in unemployment announced earlier this month. Like the national numbers, Texas employers actually added jobs in March; 32,500 jobs to be exact. The increase in unemployment rate yet increase in job creation indicates, as it does nationally, that more people are starting to look for jobs after having given up some time ago. This is a hopeful sign. The unemployment rate does not count people who have given up hope and stopped looking for a job. When they start seeing job opportunity and start looking again, the jobless rate actually goes up.

<http://www.texasworkforce.org/news/press/2010/052110epress.pdf>

**County Map of ARRA Funding in Texas Updated for the March 2010 1512 Reporting**

The Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts has recently updated the interactive map, which shows county totals and funding breakdowns by category, on their website for the 1512 data from March 2010. The interactive map displays Recovery Act activity in Texas counties reported by recipients. Funding is allocated across eleven categories: Contracts, education, energy, environment, health and human service, housing and community development, labor, public safety, research, transportation, and other. To view the map please visit the following website:

<http://www.window.state.tx.us/recovery/transparency/map/index.php>

### **TCEQ's Clean School Bus Program**

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has extended the application deadline for the Clean School Bus Program to May 31, 2010. The Clean School Bus Program provides grants for technologies that reduce diesel exhaust emissions from school buses. It was created by House Bill 3469 in the 79th Session and has federal grant funding through the ARRA. The grant is available to all public school districts and charter schools in Texas that operate one or more diesel powered school buses or to a transportation system provided by a countywide school district. There is not a maximum amount the a school district or charter school can apply for; and the grant will cover 100 percent of the equipment and installation of emission-reduction devices. To date over \$1,000,000 still needs to obligated. Please encourage your local schools to apply for this program. To find out more about this program and learn how to apply please visit the following website:

<http://www.tceq.state.tx.us/assistance/clean-vehicles/school-buses.html>

### **Federal Economic Stabilization Funding Recent Subcommittee Hearings**

The Federal Economic Stabilization Funding Select Committee recently had two subcommittee hearings. The Transportation Subcommittee chaired by Representative Darby met for the first time last week on May 11, 2010, and the Education Subcommittee chaired by Representative Kent met for the first time this week on May 19, 2010. Testimony and documents prepared by state agencies and other organizations testifying are on our website at:

<http://txstimulusfund.com/CommitteeHearings.aspx>