

Statement of Senator Tim Johnson
Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs
“The Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress.”
July 22, 2009

Thank you, Chairman Bernanke for being here today. As the economy continues to undergo a period of stress and volatility, I look forward to hearing the Fed’s economic forecast for the rest of 2009 and into 2010.

The Fed continues to have a full plate as it looks for ways to address the problems plaguing our economy. I applaud your efforts to date to achieve economic stability. Unfortunately, I suspect we are not yet at the end of the road in terms the challenges facing our economy.

I am committed to our nation’s economic recovery and to ensuring the safety and soundness of the financial sector without placing unnecessary burdens on the taxpayer. In the long run, the best way to protect taxpayers is to fashion a functional regulatory system that prevents situations like the ones we are currently experiencing from arising again.

As the Banking Committee tackles financial regulatory restructuring in coming weeks, we will continue to look to your expertise. As many others have noted, the status quo is no longer an option. It is my hope that members of this committee from both sides of the aisle can construct a proposal that reflects the needs of our nation’s taxpayers, consumers and investors, and financial markets and institutions to achieve economic recovery and needed reform.