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## CASTLE, FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE HEAR FROM BERNAKE ON STATE OF THE ECONOMY -- FEBRUARY 27, 2008

CASTLE, FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE HEAR FROM BERNAKE  
ON STATE OF THE ECONOMY

Committee works to include Castle provision in housing stimulus package

February 27, 2008

Washington, DC-- Congressman Michael N. Castle (R-DE) today questioned Federal Reserve Chairman Ben S. Bernanke today before the House Committee on Financial Services. Chairman Bernanke was on Capitol Hill to update Congress on the state of the economy and interpret some of the recent indications in the rate of growth.

The Federal Reserve Board Chairman expressed optimism that the impact of the tax rebates, small business incentives, and loan rate changes would be reflected in the economy before year's end. Bernanke stated, "The \$168 billion stimulus package enacted by Congress and signed by President Bush this month and continued gains in exports should help growth." Chairman Bernanke also signaled his appreciation for Congressman Castle's effort to work with his colleagues to put forth a second stimulus proposal, specifically focused on housing.

The House Committee on Financial Services has jurisdiction over housing and has been drafting a \$35 billion package to decrease the nation's growing foreclosure rates. Congressman Castle is working to include a provision in this housing stimulus bill that he authored to protect servicers that make loan modifications from lawsuits, thus increasing the likelihood for refinance options.

Castle said, "Foreclosures impact everyone in a negative way. No one wins: not the home-owner, the lender, or the community. We need all these parties working together to improve foreclosure rates, and I am working to make that easier."

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