

The numbers are so mind-boggling, sometimes I wonder if they could even be right.

For some perspective, the entire budget for the State of Michigan in one year is about \$45 billion. That is money for things like public education, prisons, and roads.

In Washington, DC though that is chump change.

First, in January of this year Congress passed a \$787 billion "stimulus" bill. That bill spent money we don't have on everything from ant research to new toilets and on thousands of checks to dead people and convicted felons.

Then, Congress passed President Obama's budget which calls for \$9 trillion in NEW debt over ten years. That's a doubling of the already staggering \$12 trillion national debt accumulated since America's founding. According to this budget, by 2020, each man, woman and child would owe \$74,000 in debt.

Just when you thought maybe that was enough, the U.S. House passed a \$2 trillion "cap and trade" bill that would cap emissions of carbon dioxide and trade carbon credits on Wall Street. President Obama said this proposal would cause electricity rates to "necessarily skyrocket."

Then, Speaker Pelosi passed her \$1.6 trillion government takeover of health care.

My Democrat friends weren't even close to being finished though. Last week, they passed a massive annual spending bill that increased spending 14% over last year. Last I checked, the people who are paying for this increase (taxpayers) aren't seeing 14% more money in their paychecks from last year. (If they still have a paycheck).

President Obama and Speaker Pelosi also announced plans last week to spend money from the Wall Street bailout that the banks are now repaying. That money would just go to reduce the \$1.85 trillion deficit for this year right? No. On more "stimulus" just like the last one.

This week Democrats passed an increase to the debt ceiling, allowing them to borrow and spend even more money we don't have on things that don't work.

All of this borrowing and spending happened in less than one year's time. And all of it is staggering and downright frightening. America's AAA bond rating is in jeopardy. President Obama and Secretary of State Hilary Clinton have each traveled to China to reassure America's largest debt holder. Money is moving from the U.S. dollar into commodities, artificially making things like oil more expensive.

The next time I see House Speaker Nancy Pelosi or another Democrat leader in Washington, DC, I'll invite them up to Michigan to meet real people who live within their means, play by the rules and are begging their elected officials to do the same.

-Mike Rogers