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## **Stimulus plan – my way, or the highway**

*Steve Bakke  February 3, 2020*



The divided government that has been entertaining us recently resembles a theatrical cast of characters. Players exchange roles based on who is directing this comedy/drama – i.e., which party is in power.

Republicans offered a “go big” stimulus that was rejected by the democrats when Trump was president. In fact, Trump upped the ante to almost \$2 trillion last fall. It was announced as “dead on arrival” by democrat leadership. The amounts now being debated have democrats at \$1.9 trillion and republicans insisting on less.

It’s not an issue of stingy vs. generous. It’s all about a shotgun approach by democrats vs. a targeted approach by republicans. A February 2 letter writer expressed this preference: “toss them every darn life vest, life ring, rope and float you can find.” In other words, a very untargeted, shotgun approach. Compare that to your editorial on February 4 which seemed to acknowledge the value of a targeted stimulus, so these funds are directed to those needing it most.

I and many other conservatives would settle for a “go big” emergency proposal as long as it focused on need. A side-by-side comparison of the competing programs clearly shows the advantage of a targeted approach.

Here are related questions for both parties: If it’s so doggone urgent to get these funds working in the economy, why are significant amounts of previous stimulus plans sitting unspent? And what’s wrong with compromise? Rest assured, politics and “pay-back” rule the day.

Cynicism comes easily these days.