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Nashuan wants US stimulated but not indebted

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Fred Tausch is mad as hell, and he's spending \$100,000 to do something about it.

The 37-year-old entrepreneur and Nashua resident says he's willing to dole out that much to strike a protest against the \$789 billion economic stimulus plan.

Through newspaper and radio advertising, Tausch hopes other citizens will voice their concerns and frustrations about the spending bill to congressional representatives and the president.

And although Congress is expected to vote on the legislation today, Tausch said the movement still isn't too late. A civic protest will nonetheless send a message to Washington about future measures, he said.

"What piqued my interested here is the lack of fiscal discipline," Tausch said. "But it's not just about one bill, even though this is almost a trillion dollars. It's about ensuring fiscal discipline."

Tausch's movement is called Stimulate the Economy Without Accumulating Record Debt, or STEWARD. He placed an advertisement on Page 5 of today's Telegraph, and said he has done so in other newspapers, as well as on radio stations.

A software engineer, Tausch said he would feel guilty if he sat around and didn't take action, even if it means writing sizeable checks.

On his Web site, stewardofprosperity.org, Tausch wants citizens to sign a petition urging President Barack Obama and Congress to craft a "better" stimulus plan that targets Americans more directly and is fairer. More than 500 people had signed as of Thursday afternoon, he said.

The petition reads: "The plan rewards bad behavior by bailing out irresponsible state governments with money from taxpayers in states that have managed their budgets prudently. It puts us in too much debt by pitting tomorrow's working families against today's consumers of government largesse. And it fails to target resources toward creating enough jobs to get people working again now."

Tausch hopes the Web site and movement spurs citizens and government to become more fiscally responsible.

"It's a hard thing to do," he said. "It's not easy to say let's spend within our own means. But

maybe at some point, people will get excited about it."

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