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GUTHRIE

Seeking the input of the people he serves, Congressman Brett Guthrie brought the "America Speaking Out" series of town hall meetings to Campbellsville on Tuesday night.

Guthrie said a recent poll shows that only 22 percent of the people approve of the work Congress is doing. Guthrie said he believes that boils down some members of Congress not listening to their constituents.

"People feel like they are not being heard or not being listened to," Guthrie said.

About 50 people attended the meeting, which took place at the Taylor County Courthouse.

Before opening up the floor for questions and comments, Guthrie gave a brief presentation on the national debt.

He said there have been 3.4 million jobs lost since the stimulus bill passed. Meanwhile, Washington will spend \$3.6 trillion this year, he said, and spending that simply adds to the nation's debt.

Guthrie said 47 percent of U.S. debt is owned by foreign countries, such as China.

President Barack Obama's budget will only triple the national debt over a 10-year period.

Guthrie said the solution lies in cutting spending, canceling unspent stimulus

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## Guthrie seeks public ideas

Congressman conducts series of town hall meetings.

## Guthrie: Seeks public ideas

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money and enacting federal hiring and pay freezes.

He then opened the floor to anyone with questions or concerns.

State Rep. John "Bam" Carney, R-Campbellsville, asked about unfunded No Child Left Behind mandates.

Guthrie said the NCLB bill needs to be re-authored and the unfunded mandates would likely go away.

"We need to give more of a framework than a mandate," he said.

John Chowning, Campbellsville University's vice

president for church and external relations and executive assistant to the president, asked about discretionary spending and the impact of entitlements on the national debt.

Guthrie said discretionary spending has risen 17 percent since Obama took office. Obama's health care bill cuts half a trillion dollars from Medicare and creates a new low-income entitlement health program, meaning everyone meeting certain criteria will receive benefits.

The problem with entitlements, Guthrie said, is that

"if you show up, you get it." That type of program puts a strain on an already tight budget and needs to be curbed, he said.

Janice Myers, JOBS specialist for Taylor, Adair and Green counties, asked Guthrie how more jobs could be brought to Taylor County.

Guthrie said the key is to empower local people to create more jobs. He said residents must have the power to spend locally and grow the local economy. In addition, road projects such as the Heartland Parkway will help spur economic growth.

Farmer Doug Martin asked Guthrie about his views on farmers and the farm bill.

Guthrie said it is imperative that the U.S. be able to grow its own food and to do that, a farm bill is needed that encourages productive farming.

For more information on the Congressional town hall meetings, visit [americaspeakingout.com](http://americaspeakingout.com).

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