

For Immediate Release

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## **Stimulus Bill Now Fully Searchable Online**

***Rhode Island company creates the first web published version of the bill allowing full-text search, links to individual pages and preservation of original formatting.***

**April 1, 2009 (Providence, RI)**—For all the debate generated by the United States Government’s historic passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, commonly know as the “Stimulus Bill,” access to and research on the text of the Stimulus Bill itself has been surprisingly difficult. Now thanks to Tizra, a Rhode Island company that specializes in unique web-publishing tools, the Stimulus Bill is available on the web in a form that supports easy research, referencing and collaboration. Using Tizra’s software tools that enable non-technical users to web-publish common PDF files without software development or HTML coding, the company produced the online version in less than 30 minutes.

The Tizra published version of the Stimulus Bill is on their demonstration website at...

<http://demo.tizra.com/view/dltaj/default>

“There is no single piece of information or legislation that has gained so much attention in recent times, yet there was clearly a lack of easy and useful access to this historic bill,” said Abe Dane, Tizra COO. “With the media focusing so much attention on who actually read the Bill, we thought it would be helpful to see how easy it was for the public, media and lawmakers to access and research it. Clearly the versions available on the web lacked the kind of accessibility, transparency and ease of discussion everyone is hoping for. This is exactly why we started Tizra!”

While various other versions of the Stimulus Bill may be found on the web, they typically have limitations that make it difficult to find specific passages within the document and link to them. For example, the text of the Bill is available on many sites, including the U.S. Government Printing Office’s FDsys (which was down at the time of this writing), as a large PDF file, approximately 400 pages long. These files represent a challenge to download on many computers and, while they have retained the Bill’s original formatting and pagination, they take considerable time to scroll through. Official versions are also available in HTML, which loses the formatting and page numbering of the original.

Tizra’s web-published version of the Stimulus Bill offers the public a first: the ability to search the full text of the bill easily online, while retaining the Bill’s original formatting and page numbers, and enabling users to reference specific sections of the document. Each page of the bill has its own web address, so users can easily share links to the exact part of the bill they want using familiar email and bookmarking tools, or with fast-growing social software applications like Facebook, Digg or Delicious. It also enables Tizra to support commenting software that lets users post their thoughts on specific pages of the bill, making it a truly interactive focus for conversation and community.

Tizra’s page-at-a-time delivery approach also makes search more precise, because results lead users to the exact pages they’re looking for, rather than to a whole document they then need to scan through. Tizra’s search also features relevancy ranking, provides snippets of surrounding text to give context in search results, and highlights text within the document to make it even easier for users to home in on what they’re looking for.

All of these capabilities were added to the bill in less than 30 minutes, using Tizra's tools for web-publishing common PDF files without the need for complicated content conversion, HTML or software programming, and costly website support and maintenance.

"Besides the advantages of full-text search, original organization and pagination of the Bill and the dynamic commenting capability, creating this version in 30 minutes illustrates the power of our tools for dramatically accelerating web access to important information, while lowering costs," said Abe. "The fact we could web-publish a more useful and powerful version of the Stimulus Bill, in 30 minutes using our standard tool set, is a great demonstration of how we can help organizations truly harness the power of information while lowering costs. From legal documents and reports to manuals and plans, there is a tremendous amount of information that is not web-accessible due to the time, cost and complexity of traditional web-publishing approaches. In today's economic conditions, success is based on access to information needed to make informed decisions and the speed, flexibility and lower cost to web-publish it. This demonstration project is a prime example of how Tizra can help."

### **About Tizra**

Tizra's mission is to provide content owners large and small with unprecedented control over the distribution and presentation of their online information. Tizra's first product, Tizra Publisher, is a hosted service that enables non-technical staff to create new online information products from existing content and deliver them through their own branded web sites with highly flexible control over access and business terms, including extensive ecommerce capabilities. The company is headquartered in Providence, Rhode Island, and funded in part by Rhode Island's Slater Technology Fund. More at <http://tizra.com>.

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