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President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Americans are still asking, "Where are the jobs?" One thing is for certain, government can't create jobs. Instead, Congress must focus on sound long term policy that will allow the private sector to grow and add workers to the payroll.

If you are sincere in your desire to work with Republicans, I hope you will consider some of the common-sense proposals I and many of my Republican colleagues are offering.

From what I have learned through press reports, I am concerned the Democrats' jobs bill, still to emerge from the Senate, is too narrowly targeted to benefit all struggling businesses. It promotes short-term benefits that won't lead to sustained economic growth.

First, the best way to get American families and businesses moving again is to allow them to keep more of their income. Congress should support across-the-board tax cuts. It is essential also that these cuts, besides being broad-based so Washington isn't picking the winners and losers, be permanent, so businesses can actually plan and invest on them.

I propose a series of broad-based tax cuts:

- Make the Bush Tax Cuts Permanent.
- Reduce the corporate tax rate to 25% (from 35%, second highest in the industrialized world).

- Reduce tax rates on capital gains and dividends - so we can unleash the power of entrepreneurs to reinvest in business.
- Permanently repeal the Death Tax – so businesses can transfer business capital to the next generation.

Many of these time-tested proposals are found in H.R. 470, the Economic Recovery and Middle-Class Tax Relief Act.

Second, I propose the Administration and Congress act to remove the regulatory barriers to energy production and streamline the existing permitting process. Increased domestic energy production from all sources (including oil, natural gas, oil shale, nuclear, and renewables such as hydropower) will, without a doubt, lower energy costs, reduce our reliance on foreign energy, and create new jobs.

In your State of the Union address, you stressed the development of American energy as a key to growing the economy. I believe I can find support from both Democrats and Republicans to work with you on three specific items you called for:

- Increased clean nuclear energy in America
- Expanded exploration of offshore areas for oil and gas development
- Development of clean coal technologies

Regulatory barriers often prevent or unnecessarily delay environmentally sound domestic energy production. I propose that the Administration and Congress act to remove the regulatory barriers to energy production and streamline the existing permitting process. Proposals I support include the No Cost Stimulus Act, the American Energy Act, and the American Energy Innovation Act. We can create conditions that are both business and environmentally friendly with these common sense proposals.

Finally, Mr. President, we must restore stability to the markets by halting any proposed rule or regulation projected to have a significant economic cost, result in job loss, or be a burden on businesses.

The threat of increased taxes, new government regulation, and costly government mandates – all of which are currently pending before Congress and various regulatory bodies – are a significant threat to any employer who is trying to decide whether they can afford to expand. Since taking office, the Administration has had under consideration over 100 regulations that are deemed economically significant, meaning they have an impact on the economy in excess of \$100 million. Many of these rules will directly impact and burden businesses.

Unfortunately, businesses are unable to confidently assess their bottom lines for the next few years in part because of legislation that is threatening to drive their costs higher. This includes:

- higher taxes for businesses that operate internationally;
- higher taxes on energy because of the cap-and-trade bill;
- higher taxes and costly regulations as part of Democrat plans on health care;
- job killing changes to labor laws including card check and binding arbitration; and
- stricter regulations in numerous other areas.

As long as these cost-raisers hang over them, businesses will be hesitant to add new workers. After all, employers could end up making investments and adding new workers that would become unaffordable if these ideas become law.

I propose the government halt any proposed rule or regulation projected to have a significant cost, result in job loss, or be a burden on businesses.

Mr. President, it is generally estimated that the economy needs to add approximately 127,000 jobs a month just to keep up with population growth. That is not even taking into consideration the new job creation that is needed to restore the millions of jobs lost during this recession. To return to full employment (5% unemployment), the economy will need to produce over 250,000 jobs per month over the next 5 years.

I look forward to working with you to pass bipartisan legislation based on sound principles that will lead to sustained economic growth for America.

Sincerely,



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress