



Jay Timmons
Executive Vice President

June 15, 2009

The Honorable Gary Locke
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D C 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the nation's largest industrial trade association, strongly supports the Administration's efforts to create new jobs for American workers through the continued implementation of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. Given the rising unemployment figures, manufacturers recognize that the programs funded by the Act must now be implemented promptly so that jobs can be created as soon as possible.

Because of the critical importance of job creation, I urge you to reexamine the decision of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to delay funding shovel-ready broadband deployment projects. There are several broadband deployment projects that, when funded by the NTIA, would meet the President's goals of providing broadband service to unserved areas, while creating jobs in manufacturing and construction that would stimulate the economy.

The NTIA originally indicated that applications would be accepted in May and funding would commence in June so that job-creating broadband deployment projects could start in 2009. The NTIA, however, modified its timetable in late May to indicate that applications will be received in September with funding to begin by December 31, 2009. As a result of this delay, no new jobs will be created until 2010 and important projects will not be completed until the end of 2011.

The latest unemployment figures highlight the urgent need for job creation. We strongly urge NTIA to consider applications for shovel-ready projects immediately so that these projects can be funded and manufacturing and construction can begin.

Thank you, in advance, for considering our request. The NAM looks forward to working with you and the Administration to ensure an expeditious and robust economic recovery that further sustains and enhances the American manufacturing base.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jay Timmons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of "J" being particularly large and stylized.

Jay Timmons

JT/gjj

Manufacturing Makes America Strong