



Jay Timmons  
Executive Vice President

February 13, 2009

U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the nation's largest industrial trade association representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support the conference report to H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, because this legislation is essential to economic revitalization and the creation of jobs.

The economic situation that our country faces is unprecedented. Nearly 600,000 jobs have been lost since the beginning of this year. Almost four million jobs have been lost in the past year. Day after day, more companies are forced to reduce their workforce to keep their doors open.

Our member companies from around the country are telling us they agree with Congress and the Administration that decisive and immediate action is critically necessary to spur economic revitalization. They understand that the conference version to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (H.R. 1) is not perfect, and that if we were writing the bill ourselves it would look different. However, they believe the overall plan balances tax cuts and investment and is designed to help working Americans and those who provide their jobs.

The critically important investment incentives, investment in infrastructure, new incentives to reduce energy costs and increase energy efficiency, cancellation of indebtedness, innovation and competitiveness programs, promotion of health care technology, and workforce development provisions included in the conference report to H.R.1 are critical to the ability of manufacturers to create and retain jobs.

Manufacturers are strongly committed to supporting immediate action that addresses the unprecedented challenges we face. We recognize that there is more to do and look forward to working with you to advance follow-on legislation to address a number of liquidity challenges that will help all manufacturers and our nation's entire economy get back on track and further ensure job creation and sustainable economic growth.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on H.R. 1, including potential procedural motions, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 111th Congress. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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

Jay Timmons

JT/tl

***Manufacturing Makes America Strong***