

Congressional Progressive Caucus

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74 Strong and Growing: Open to New and Different Ideas

September 23, 2008

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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

Speaker

U.S. House of Representatives

H-232

U.S. Capitol

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

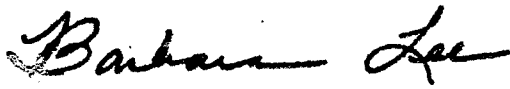
On behalf of many Progressive Caucus Members in addition to ourselves, we are writing to pledge our strong, active support for your scheduling of fast action on a second economic stimulus package to help get our economy back on track, create jobs, and speed assistance to tens of millions of Americans who are struggling to make financial ends meet. We are encouraged by reports that it will include substantial funding for a down payment on rebuilding our nation's crumbling infrastructure, additional unemployment insurance benefits, Medicaid payments to states (FMAP), and LIHEAP to provide many low-income Americans some relief from soaring energy costs.

If additional spending is available, we also urge that increased funding be provided in this package for the green jobs training program, food stamps, and bankruptcy reform to assist home foreclosure victims.

As you recall, we wrote to you in late January (long before gas prices went through the roof and the Wall Street financial and credit crisis) to urge that the first economic stimulus package include more provisions to boost our declining national economy and especially help the hardest hit – low and middle-income Americans. That targeting is needed even more now. If many of the titans of America's financial industry are to be bailed out by American taxpayers, it is imperative that hard-working and impoverished Americans also receive federal help amidst the greatest financial and credit crisis since the Great Depression, and the resulting economic hardship for so many of our constituents struggling desperately to meet their basic human needs.

We appreciate that you are willing to include some of our progressive economic policy recommendations. We look forward to working with you in coming days to ensure passage of the second economic stimulus package. We hope you find merit in the provisions we are recommending.

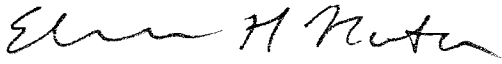
Sincerely,



U.S. Representative Barbara Lee
Co-Chair, Progressive Caucus



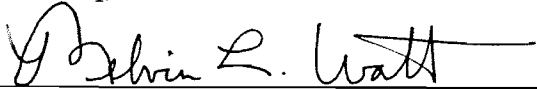
U.S. Representative Keith Ellison



U.S. Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton



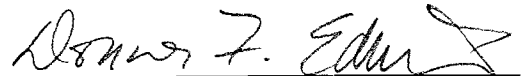
U.S. Representative Phil Hare



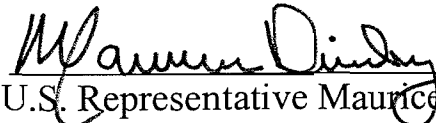
U.S. Representative Mel Watt



U.S. Representative Lynn Woolsey
Co-Chair, Progressive Caucus



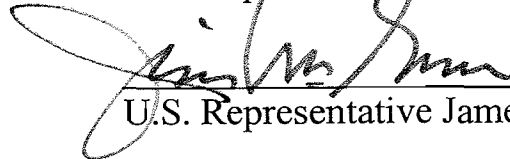
U.S. Representative Donna Edwards



U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey



U.S. Representative Steve Cohen



U.S. Representative James P. McGovern

cc: Majority Leader Steny Hoyer
Majority Whip James Clyburn
House Democratic Caucus Chair Rahm Emanuel
House Democratic Caucus Vice-Chair John Larson