



# Conference Report on H.R. 1, American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

## A Few of the Letters and Releases from Groups Supporting The Conference Report

National Association of Manufacturers

U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Information Technology Industry Council

League of Conservation Voters

AARP



February 13, 2009

Dear Senators and Representatives:

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,

Jay Timmons  
Executive Vice President



Contact: J.P. Fielder  
(202) 463-5682 / 888-249-NEWS

February 12, 2009

**U.S. Chamber Outlines Support for Legislation that Creates Jobs, Helps Small Businesses**

*Josten: "Economy is in Uncharted and Dangerous Waters and Inaction is Not an Option"*

WASHINGTON, DC—The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Executive Vice President of Government Affairs Bruce Josten issued the following statement after House and Senate conferees announced an agreement on a stimulus package aimed at stimulating consumption and investment, creating jobs, and jumpstarting the economy:

"Since the elections, we've vowed to work with the President to quickly develop and pass a stimulus bill that would apply a defibrillator to our economy and shock it back to life.

"While we're concerned with individual items in this package, the whole is more important than the individual parts. The global economy is in uncharted and dangerous waters and inaction from Washington is not an option. No package of this size can be perfect but we need a bill that will unlock capital markets, free up credit, and create momentum in the economy.

"The Chamber is disappointed that the net operating loss (NOL) provision is not expansive enough to apply to all businesses, but we're pleased that the current bill will provide some help to smaller Main Street businesses. We support the cancellation of indebtedness tax provisions that will encourage businesses to restructure and reduce debt, enabling them to preserve jobs, renew investment, and begin to grow once again.

"Spending on 'shovel-ready' construction projects, expanding broadband access, and modernizing our health care information are major steps toward boosting our nation's infrastructure and creating American jobs.

"And by offering tax incentives to first-time home buyers and new car purchasers, this bill could provide much needed liquidity to the market while jumpstarting critical industries.

"We urge both chambers of Congress to swiftly pass the bill, but with the economy in freefall and the credit markets in gridlock, this is just the beginning. Now comes the hard part of addressing the underlying causes of the crisis and refocusing on the long-term goal of fiscal discipline."

The U.S. Chamber is the world's largest business federation representing more than 3 million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region.

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February 12, 2009

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Oracle

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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 Capital Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Republican Leader Boehner:

The Information Technology Industry Council (ITI) urges your support of the House-Senate Conference agreement on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The American economy is experiencing an economic downturn unlike any other since the great depression. Americans are finding themselves out of work at an increasingly alarming rate. Roughly 3.6 million Americans have lost their jobs in the past 13 months, with over half those jobs being lost in the last three months alone. The time for action is now. Among other vital provisions, this legislation will provide the critical investments in our nation's digital infrastructure which will help to jumpstart the economy and provide for long-term economic growth. ITI intends to score votes related to final passage of the recovery package in our *111th Congress High-Tech Voting Guide*.

We strongly support increased investment in America's digital infrastructure that this legislation provides, including broadband deployment to rural and unserved areas, green energy technology to improve energy efficiency and decrease demand, health information technology and research and science funding to stay competitive in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century economy. Estimates show that a strong investment in technology and innovation will create millions of direct, indirect and induced American jobs and help provide the foundation for the next generation American workforce.

It is time to pass this legislation which will create American jobs and increase the competitiveness of American workers and businesses. The American economy and American workers cannot afford further delay. We encourage Congress to pass this legislation immediately.

Sincerely,

Dean C. Garfield  
President  
Information Technology Industry Council



LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS

February 13, 2009

United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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<http://www.lcv.org>

**Re: Vote Yes on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009**

Dear Representative:

The League of Conservation Voters (LCV) works to turn environmental values into national priorities. Each year, LCV publishes the *National Environmental Scorecard*, which details the voting records of members of Congress on environmental legislation. The *Scorecard* is distributed to LCV members, concerned voters nationwide, and the media.

LCV urges you to help our nation bring about a new energy economy by voting YES on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. As global warming pollution poses an increasing threat to our planet, our growing dependence on oil jeopardizes our national security, and the enormity of our economic crisis continues to unfold, it is more apparent than ever that we must move our country toward a new energy future.

Fortunately, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act makes a down payment in addressing all of these problems by investing tens of billions of dollars in clean energy provisions, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, public transit, public lands restoration, and green jobs. These investments will create jobs, save consumers money, improve our national security, and protect the planet.

LCV strongly supports the many clean energy solutions included in this bill, such as increasing wind and solar power, training workers for green jobs, modernizing the electricity grid, making buildings more efficient, and helping people purchase more efficient appliances. In short, this legislation will address our economic woes in both the short and long term while ensuring a healthier planet for future generations. We urge you to vote YES on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. We will strongly consider including the vote on this conference report in the 2009 Scorecard. If you need more information, please call Tiernan Sittenfeld or Tim Greeff at my office (202) 785-8683.

Sincerely,

Gene Karpinski  
President



601 E Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20049

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February 12, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
House Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
A-221 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressional Leaders:

On behalf of AARP's 40 million members, we urge you to support the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Because of the urgent need to pass this legislation -- and as part of our ongoing effort to let our members know of action taken on key issues -- we are designating this vote as an AARP key vote, and we will be informing our members how you voted on this critical package.

The bill contains many provisions that we believe are paramount to promoting economic growth, assisting those most affected by the economic crisis, and providing the foundation for meeting critical needs, such as health care and the development of livable communities. Among the provisions we agree are especially needed are:

- A \$250 economic recovery payment for seniors, veterans, and individuals with disabilities who are ineligible to receive a Make Work Pay credit.
- A significant increase in Medicaid spending that will help to stimulate the economy as the current economic downturn causes caseloads to rise while revenues plummet.
- Essential building blocks for health care reform, including support for health information technology that includes critical privacy protections, health care comparative effectiveness research, and nurse and primary care training. These changes are critical because we cannot fix our economy if we do not address our broken health care system.
- An increase in funding for the Social Security Administration at a time of significant caseload increases.

The Honorable Pelosi, Reid, McConnell and Boehner

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- Affordable health insurance via subsidized COBRA for those who have lost health coverage along with jobs.
- An extension and increase in unemployment benefits. Over the past twelve months the number of unemployed aged 55 and older has risen by 65 percent.
- An increase in Food Stamps and other nutrition support. Fixed and low-income seniors face unacceptable choices as food costs increase along with the price of medicine and health care.
- An increase in the Weatherization Assistance Program to help low-income and elderly families reduce their energy costs.
- A substantial increase in funding for transportation infrastructure projects that expand mobility options, including mass transit, rural and para-transit programs, and improved coordination of human services transportation programs.
- An increase in the loan value limit for FHA-insured reverse equity mortgages that would allow greater numbers of older homeowners to safely tap the equity in their homes to refinance unaffordable mortgages, obtain more suitable housing, pay medical bills or just meet daily living costs.

The gravity of the current economic crisis demands swift enactment of legislation that can encourage job growth and provide immediate assistance to the millions who are struggling in this downturn. We urge you to pass this legislation as soon as possible to promote an economic recovery, and we look forward to working with our members and volunteers to ensure that implementation of this bill is effective and meets its goals. If you have any further questions, feel free to call me, or please have your staff contact Elaine Ryan at 202-434-3789.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

William D. Novelli  
Chief Executive Officer