

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

January 16, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reid, McConnell, Inouye and Cochran:

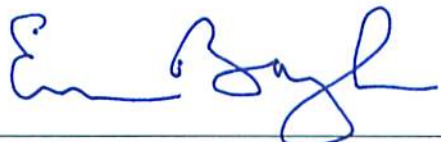
As you continue to draft the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan to stimulate the economy, we ask that you provide additional funding to those states that need it the most – those with the highest unemployment rates. This could be accomplished either by including a state's unemployment rate into the allocation formula, or providing an additional funding source for high unemployment states. Any plans must go beyond the counter-cyclical measures that by their nature are normally targeted to high unemployment states.

It is clear that the nation is going through a time of economic difficulty. As we work together to strengthen the American economy by investing in infrastructure, promoting energy efficiency, and creating new green jobs, all states will benefit from these national improvements. However, there are a number of states that have been suffering from unemployment rates significantly higher than the national average. These states, including Indiana, Michigan, Rhode Island, Oregon, California, Florida, Alaska, Connecticut, and Missouri face challenges above and beyond those challenges faced by states with lower unemployment rates. States with high unemployment rates have strained resources and in the face of increasing unemployment numbers will continue to struggle with these hardships without additional help. Many of the states with high unemployment rates have been forced to cut deeply into services provided by the state, from pensions to educational programs, to economic development efforts, to social services. We ask that, as you consider the proper allocation of funding in the stimulus package, you target that funding toward those states with the greatest need, which could see the greatest benefit from that funding: those states with high unemployment.

If the objective of the stimulus legislation is to create new jobs and renew confidence in our economy, it is imperative that we provide additional funding to those states that have been the most economically depressed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Evan Bayh



Carl Levin

  
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Jack Reed

  
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Ron Wyden

  
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Barbara Boxer

  
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Bill Nelson

  
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Sheldon Whitehouse

  
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Mark Begich

  
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Debbie Stabenow

  
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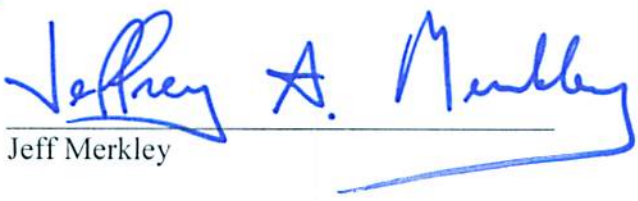
Joe Lieberman

  
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Dianne Feinstein

  
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Claire McCaskill

  
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Jeff Merkley