

August 30, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

The announcement that you will be presenting a jobs plan for the country could not have come at a more crucial moment. The number one problem America faces today is the jobs crisis.

A problem this serious needs a plan to match it in scope. Tax cuts and incentives for corporations have repeatedly failed to put Americans back to work. It is time to move beyond these half-measures designed to appeal to a narrow ideological minority who have repeatedly shown their unwillingness to negotiate and their disinterest in real solutions. History—and proven economics—tells us that any plan to solve our job crisis needs to be big, bold, and create jobs directly.

With 25 million Americans out of work, or only able to find part-time work when they want and need full time jobs, aggressive action is needed. Representative Jan Schakowsky's "Emergency Jobs to Restore the American Dream Act" is an example of the kind of bold step that we need to take as a country and that you should include as part of your broader jobs agenda. It would decrease unemployment 1.3 percent by directly creating more than 2 million jobs, including jobs for construction workers to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure, and for educators, health care workers, firefighters, and police, to strengthen our communities.

Across the political spectrum, Americans are united in calling for the government to create jobs and on how we can pay for this investment in our economic recovery: Raise taxes on the wealthy, so that they pay their fair share again.

Recently, more than 130,000 ordinary Americans joined together to create a vision to rebuild the American Dream. The ideas they laid out in the Contract for the American Dream are the best way forward for our country. They include investing in American infrastructure, education, green technology, and healthcare; a return to fairer tax rates; ensuring that workers have living wages and the right to organize; and keeping our democracy accountable and responsive to the American people. This is how to keep our country, our democracy, and our economy strong.

At this pivotal moment for our nation we need you to present a vision based on these principles. And we need a plan that asks the rich and corporations to pay their fair share so we can reinvest in American workers and communities and rebuild the American Dream.

Sincerely,

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