



March 11, 2010

The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva
1440 Longworth Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Grijalva:

I am writing to strongly urge you to co-sponsor the "Local Jobs for America Act," a groundbreaking bill that would provide cities and counties direct funds to save and create jobs in our local communities. As you are well aware, our nation has been struggling through one of the most difficult economic times in our history. The recession has impacted not only the private sector, but critical public sector jobs as well. Teachers, firefighters and police have joined the ranks of the unemployed – making it even harder for working and middle class families to climb out of this spiraling downturn in the economy.

As Mayor of Avondale, my city organization has cut nearly 17% of its workforce since 2008 in order to balance our budget, which has been greatly impacted by falling revenues and severe cuts from the State. With heavy hearts, we were forced to give pink slips to library staff, parks and maintenance workers, janitors, police support personnel, and recreation coordinators. Arizona lawmakers, in their efforts to pull the state out of its financial mire, are proposing to enact legislation this session which could further cut into critical areas such as public safety and health and human services. The "Local Jobs for America Act" will provide our economy a shot in the arm by restoring these services in our cities and counties. Half of the funding we would receive under the "Local Jobs for America" formula would allow us to retain employees who might otherwise have to be let go because of budget shortfalls. The formula would also allow us to give up to 25 percent to local community based organizations – with whom we already partner – to hire people to provide needed services in our community.

Office of the Mayor

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Beyond the benefit of direct funding for local governments, the bill has far reaching implications for helping to restore stability to our shaky economy. With \$23 billion to help states support an estimated 250,000 education jobs; \$1.18 billion to put 5,500 law enforcement officers on the beat; and \$500 million to hire and retain fire fighters – it will ensure that our citizens have stable jobs so that they can feed, clothe, and educate their families, along with disposable income leftover to support shops, restaurants and businesses, which will in turn will help put our country back on track for prosperity again.

This proposed legislation could not come at a more critical time for cities and counties. I urge you to put your name down as a co-sponsor of the “Local Jobs for America Act” bill and help push for its immediate passage. Our families cannot wait any longer for relief to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie Lopez Rogers". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned centrally below the text "Sincerely,".

Marie Lopez Rogers
Mayor

cc: City Council
Charlie McClendon, City Manager
Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director, US Conference of Mayor