Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2009

Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Dear Governor Strickland:

Since the enactment of the massive "stimulus" spending bill earlier this year, we have written you on several occasions stressing the importance of ensuring Ohio's share of federal "stimulus" dollars are spent through a transparent and open process that ensures maximum accountability. Specifically, in a March 4 letter we urged you to create an independent, bipartisan oversight board to monitor Ohio's use of federal "stimulus" dollars. You subsequently declined to do so, saying such a board is not necessary, and instead favored a Deputy Inspector General. Today, in light of new reports confirming widespread problems throughout the country with the government's "stimulus" tracking efforts, we are we are urging you to reconsider.

We are concerned about numerous national news reports showing gross inaccuracies in government reports tracking federal "stimulus" dollars. Nationwide, at least 400 non-existent congressional districts have been credited with receiving "stimulus" funds. On Tuesday, the *Cleveland Plain Dealer* reported that the "stimulus" has provided millions of dollars to projects in 10 Ohio congressional districts that don't even exist, including the "00th" and the "99th" districts.

These reports add to growing confusion surrounding "stimulus" tracking. On Wednesday *Politico* noted that even the chief federal oversight official for the "stimulus" program said in a Nov. 17 letter to a member of Congress that he can't certify whether the number of jobs "created or saved" by "stimulus" funds is accurate.
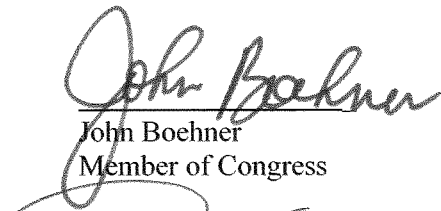
At a time when every penny counts for struggling American taxpayers, such errors and widespread confusion are intolerable, and they lead to further questions regarding the credibility of state and federal government efforts to distribute and track "stimulus" dollars. Unfortunately, this troubling news comes at a time when it is becoming more apparent that the "stimulus" has failed to provide promised jobs and relief to hard-hit Ohio families.

It is imperative that Ohioans know federal "stimulus" dollars are being spent effectively, and that government efforts to track these dollars are accurate and credible. That's why we again ask that you immediately create an independent oversight board to give Ohioans a full and detailed accounting of how taxpayer dollars have already been spent and all planned allocations. Furthermore, we request that http://recovery.ohio.gov be updated with detailed, accurate accounting of each additional expenditure within 24 hours from any executive or legislative action that appropriates "stimulus" dollars.

We voted against the "stimulus" spending bill out of concern that billions of dollars would be wasted on slow-moving and inefficient government bureaucracy instead of helping small businesses, which are the engine of job creation in Ohio and across America. We also offered and continue to advocate for an alternative solution, which can be seen at http://www.gopleader.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=149184. But whether one

supported enactment of the "stimulus" or opposed it, we can all agree on the importance of bipartisan, independent oversight to ensure the billions of dollars it borrowed from our children and grandchildren are tracked accurately and with maximum accountability as they are spent in our state and throughout the nation. We respectfully ask again today that you establish an independent "stimulus" oversight board to help ensure such accountability.
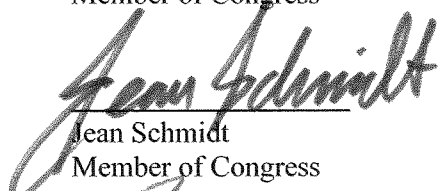
Sincerely,

John Boehner
Member of Congress

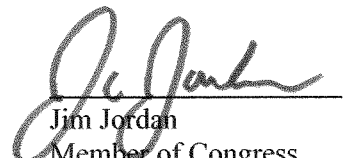Steven LaTourette
Member of Congress
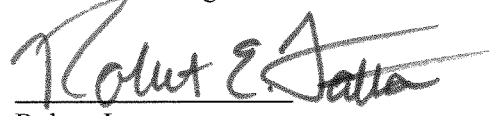
Patrick Tiberi
Member of Congress
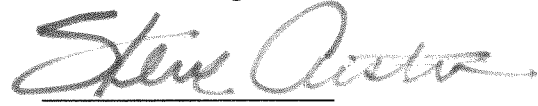
Michael Turner
Member of Congress

Jean Schmidt
Member of Congress

Jim Jordan
Member of Congress

Robert Latta
Member of Congress

Steve Austria
Member of Congress