



March 16, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman, House Education and Labor
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker and Chairman Miller:

As President of the National Association of Counties (NACo), I write in support of H.R. 4812, the “Local Jobs for America Act.” Last week, NACo convened its 2010 Legislative Conference, in Washington D.C. We appreciated Speaker Pelosi’s comments about this bill and passed a resolution (see enclosure) in support. We understand that if enacted the bill is projected to put 1 million people to work by allocating funds directly to local communities to stimulate job creation in the public and private sector. We greatly appreciate the recognition that local governments are in need of assistance, and that public sector employees are a valuable contributor to our economy.

This legislation comes at a critical time for our nation’s counties, as the ongoing recession has had a devastating impact on county budgets. An October 2009 NACo survey of primarily midsize and smaller counties found that 56 percent of the responding counties began their fiscal years with projected budget shortfalls of up to \$10 million. Counties of all sizes and in all parts of the Nation have been forced to institute layoffs, furloughs, service reductions, and fee increases. This legislation will provide much needed, and meaningful benefit to the residents of state and local areas, who have been hurt most by the recession, and who rely on the state and its counties for needed safety net services.

The bill will put people to work by restoring these services in local communities, in both public and private sector jobs. Through a funding formula based on the highly successful and proven Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, the bill would direct \$75 billion to counties, towns and cities to save municipal jobs and prevent layoffs, including \$500 million for approximately 50,000 additional on-the-job training positions to help private business expand employment. The legislation also includes \$23 billion to help states support education, firefighting and law enforcement jobs.

Counties of all sizes are facing significant fiscal challenges as the broad national economic downturn continues and unemployment rates remain high. Direct funding to state and local governments using the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) model would efficiently help retain and create public and private sectors jobs, and help alleviate some of the strain on tight local government budgets.

NACo fully appreciates your leadership in addressing county needs and we look forward to working with you in support of speedy enactment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Valerie Brown'.

Valerie Brown
President

CC: The Honorable John Boehner
The Honorable John Kline
Enclosure

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT STEERING COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DIRECT PUBLIC JOB CREATION LEGISLATION

Issue: Direct Public Job Creation.

Adopted Policy: NACo supports initiatives that allocate money fairly and equitably based on the extent of their services to state and local governments via direct formula funding to stimulate direct public job creation.

Background: As the Congress considers jobs creation legislation, NACo urges Congress to consider initiatives that would stem layoffs in local areas, create jobs immediately, and help alleviate some of the strain on state and local budgets.

The enactment of Federal jobs legislation which spurs jobs growth, and includes fiscal relief for state and local governments is critically important to our nation's counties. Counties of all sizes are facing significant fiscal challenges as the broad national economic downturn continues and unemployment rates remain high.

The ongoing recession has had a devastating impact on county budgets. An October 2009 NACo survey, of primarily midsize and smaller counties found that 56 percent of the responding counties began their fiscal years with projected budget shortfalls of up to \$10 million. Counties of all sizes, and in all parts of the Nation have been forced to institute layoffs, furloughs, service reductions, and fee increases.

Fiscal/Urban/Rural Impacts: Counties of all sizes are facing significant fiscal challenges as the broad national economic downturn continues and unemployment rates remain high. Direct funding to state and local governments using the CDBG distribution method, would effectively retain and create public sector jobs, and help alleviate some of the strain on tight local and state government budgets.

Adopted by the NACo Board of Directors
March 8, 2010