



*The
Lancaster
Chamber*
of Commerce & Industry

100 South Queen Street • P.O. Box 1558 • Lancaster, PA 17608-1558
717-397-3531 • FAX: 717-293-3159 • www.lancasterchamber.com

January 28, 2009

Dear Sen. Specter:

The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry, representing more than half of the local workforce, is very concerned about the nation's economic health and calls upon Congress to come together to craft public policies that will jump-start the economy and get people back to work.

Since Election Day, congressional leaders and President Obama have been working out details of a near-trillion dollar economic recovery package, entitled the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act." The proposal is being vetted by various Committees and will soon be put to a full vote. The package under development contains three broad categories: infrastructure investment, tax cuts and direct aid to states.

As an organization made up of businesses from all sectors of the community, we believe it is absolutely essential that we weigh in on this matter. The Chamber reached out to our entire membership, consisting of nearly 2,800 businesses, asking for input on the stimulus. Enclosed you will find their comments. I ask that you please read them closely. It is our hope that our elected leaders will take into consideration the views coming from the business community in an effort to make the stimulus as effective as possible.

We cannot stress enough the fact that the policies enacted by Congress need to come sooner rather than later, but it's also imperative that the legislative process be respected. As you know, it is business that will play a critical role in getting the economy back on track, therefore the monumental initiatives being considered must be thoughtful.

Thank you for your consideration of our members' views on the stimulus. A second economic stimulus package represents an opportunity for the nation and for Pennsylvania to work its way through these challenging times.

If you wish to discuss this matter further, please call me at (717) 397-3531.

Sincerely,

Thomas T. Baldrige, C.C.E.
President
The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry