Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 21, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
S-221, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader, U.S. Senate
H-230, the Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Republican Leader McConnell:

As you continue to develop an economic recovery package, we write to express our strong support for the inclusion of H.R. 3920, the Trade and Globalization Assistance Act of 2007, in the final legislation.

This House-passed bill significantly improves the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Program, which was developed over 40 years ago to help American workers displaced by trade. Passing the House with bipartisan support in 2007, the Trade and Globalization Assistance Act expands TAA to include service workers, increases benefits, expands training and educational initiatives, makes the wage insurance program permanent, improves health care benefits, and increases the program's funding. It also supplements assistance to hard-hit businesses through tax incentives and other new benefits.

At a time when manufacturing across the country is consistently hardest hit by unemployment, Trade Adjustment Assistance is a key component in making sure the best possible services are available to all American workers. Many high unemployment states, which have repeatedly exhausted unemployment insurance, WIA, and Wagner-Peyser funding, would greatly benefit from the TAA improvements and expansions included in the House-passed TAA reauthorization.

During this difficult period, every possible federal program serving American workers should be a cornerstone of our economic recovery package. Trade Adjustment Assistance is an integral component of any attempt to serve those suffering the most during these trying times.

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We thank you for your leadership, tireless work and consideration of our views on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Member of Congress

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cc: The Honorable Max Baucus
The Honorable Chuck Grassley
The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
The Honorable Dave Camp