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October 24, 2007

Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Charles Rangel  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways & Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Jim McCrery  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways & Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Baucus, Senator Grassley, Chairman Rangel, and Representative McCrery,

We are writing to commend the work that you and your committees have conducted thus far to introduce legislation to expand and modernize the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program, which is due to expire at the end of this year. If the country's trade agenda is to move forward, we urge you to act swiftly to refine and pass this legislation to ensure that workers, firms, and farmers that have been negatively impacted by increased globalization will have every opportunity to re-tool and obtain the skills they need to ensure that they, and the country, continue to compete in the global economy.

We appreciate the willingness that you have shown to consult with states as this process has moved forward, and we are encouraged by many of the proposals contained in S.1848 and HR.3920. Among other things, we support efforts to increase funding for states to deliver TAA training services, extend the deadlines for workers to enroll in the program, expand the TAA program to cover service-sector workers, and allow industry sectors to petition the Labor Department for certification of TAA benefits. We also strongly support proposals to eliminate many of the program's burdensome administrative requirements, and to expand the health care tax credit, and the TAA for firms program.

States have deep experience with, and will continue to administer the TAA program and related workforce efforts. We therefore look forward to working with you to improve the current proposals to reform TAA and to pass them quickly into law.

Sincerely,

Edward G. Rendell

Governor of Pennsylvania



Governor of New York

Fed Strickland

Governor of Ohio



Governor of Puerto Rico



Governor of Virginia

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco

Governor of Louisiana

Ruth Ann Minner

Governor of Delaware



Governor of Michigan

Chris Gregoire

Governor of Washington

Jon Hylton

Governor of Wisconsin

Kathleen Sebelius

Governor of Kansas

Chet Lubner

Governor of Iowa



Governor of New Jersey

Dr. Beebe

Governor of Arkansas