



MAYOR ASHLEY SWEARENGIN

March 18, 2010

The Honorable Jim Costa
United States House of Representatives
1314 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
VIA FACSIMILE: 202-225-9308

RE: Please Co-Sponsor H.R. 4812, the Local Jobs for America Act

Dear Congressman ^{Jim} Costa:

I am writing to strongly urge you to co-sponsor and support passage of the *Local Jobs for America Act* (H.R.4812), recently introduced by House Education and Labor Committee Chairman George Miller [CA-7].

It is estimated that currently one in five residents in Fresno are unemployed, and the impact of joblessness on the local economy and lives of families are pervasive. As you well know, over the past few years, the increase in unemployment coupled with an unprecedented increase in housing foreclosures has eroded our revenue base. To keep our budget in balance, we have been forced to make significant cuts in many critical services including law enforcement and transportation.

This bill will help save critical jobs at the local level and create new ones to help put our unemployed residents back to work. When enacted, this legislation will support more than a million jobs over a two-year period, and help local and state governments avoid further layoffs of critical workers, and provide a much needed boost to our local economy.

Specifically, the *Local Jobs for America Act* provides \$75 billion over two years in direct funding to cities with populations of 50,000 or more to hold off planned cuts or to hire back workers for local services who have been laid-off because of tight budgets. Based on the proven Community Development Block Grant program, the bill prioritizes direct fiscal assistance to cities, block grants for green jobs, investments in neighborhoods through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), COPS grants for public safety jobs, summer jobs for young people and targeted transportation projects for infrastructure jobs. The *Local Jobs for America Act* would also fund approximately 50,000 additional private-sector on-the-job training positions

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to help businesses put people back to work. Workers would be able to acquire core job skills and important work experience for private employers.

We need your help to pass this important legislation. Again, I urge you to co-sponsor the *Local Jobs for America Act* (H.R. 4812) by contacting Meredith Regine in Rep. George Miller's office at [redacted]. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Ashley Swearingin
Mayor