



OFFICE OF THE
CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

LAUREN R. HAMMOND

COUNCILMEMBER
DISTRICT FIVE

May 4, 2010

The Honorable George Miller
U.S. House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Miller:

On behalf of the City of Sacramento, I write to express our strong support for your H.R. 4812, the Local Jobs for America Act. If enacted, the Local Jobs for America Act will provide critical, flexible and direct fiscal assistance to cities and towns to save and create over 1 million jobs.

The stark reality is that economic conditions continue to worsen for local governments across the country, with many areas experiencing or projecting record budget shortfalls and being forced to institute layoffs, furloughs, service reductions, and fee increases. At over 12%, Sacramento's unemployment rate is higher than the national average.

The Local Jobs for America Act is an important short-term step towards goals we all share: keeping police officers, firefighters, and teachers on the job, restoring critical services, such as community and economic development, infrastructure maintenance, trash collection, and waste water treatment, that have been cut or scaled back, and creating new jobs that meet local needs. It also importantly recognizes that, in addition to the actions local leaders are taking to steer their communities through the recession, *local governments need help*, and that public sector employees contribute valuable services that are indispensable to our economy and our recovery.

The Local Jobs for America Act is an efficient response that provides just the kind of help our cities need now. The bill would direct \$75 billion to local communities hardest hit by the recession to save jobs and hire vital staff and \$500 million for approximately 50,000 on-the-job private sector training positions. In addition, the bill includes nearly \$25 billion to support education, firefighting and law enforcement jobs.

H.R. 4812 will help governments avoid making the choice between eliminating services and raising taxes. Thank you again for introducing this vital legislation and for all you do to help cities and towns across our nation.

Sincerely,

LAUREN HAMMOND, Chair
Law & Legislation Committee

cc: Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Diane Feinstein
Congresswoman Doris Matsui
John Freshman, Troutman Sanders