

MARYLAND
CHAMBER ACTION NETWORK

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Your Tool for Advocacy, Information, and Involvement

January 6, 2009

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Congressman 5th District
United States House of Representatives
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-2005

Dear Congressman Hoyer:

On behalf of the undersigned business organizations of Maryland, including the State Chamber and its local chamber partners, we urge you to support an economic stimulus package that will ensure the creation of jobs in Maryland and throughout the country as a means of jumpstarting our economy. Creating jobs would generate income for individuals, businesses and all levels of government, helping to reverse current economic conditions.

The Obama Administration and Congress can put hundreds of thousands of Americans to work through a stimulus package that invests in our long-ignored infrastructure network. In particular, our organizations support new investments in improving our roads, highways, bridges and rail; expanding transit; and ensuring the long-term viability of our ports and airports. We also support funding of utility infrastructure as an economic stimulus solution that creates jobs, lowers energy costs and addresses climate change. Such a stimulus package would quickly create additional spending in the economy through retail sales, rent and mortgage payments and local, state and federal income taxes.

We urge that the plan's investment in the infrastructure must be substantial; the money must not supplant regular appropriations; it must not disrupt scheduled reauthorizations, and it must respect dedicated trust funds at all levels of government.

As the investments are made, proper care must be paid in the prioritization and selection of these projects to ensure that the following basic criteria are met:

- Meet the immediate and overall goal of creating and sustaining jobs;
- Provide long term benefits to the public; and
- Ensure accountability and transparency: an auditing program should be completed to determine whether projects met their desired outcomes.

All projects must meet the above basic criteria to be selected as part of the stimulus. Additionally, a project should meet more than one of the following principles. The more directly these principles are addressed the better suited the project is for inclusion in the stimulus.

Principles for infrastructure investment:

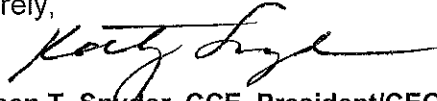
- The project should improve public health, safety and quality of life.
- The project should provide an economic benefit.
- The project should be designed and built in a sustainable and cost-effective manner and proper consideration must be given to life-cycle costs.
- The project should have an environmental benefit. Benefits may include environmental restoration or reducing bottlenecks and vulnerabilities in a system.

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Each of the undersigned organizations offers strong support in helping you ensure a jobs-oriented stimulus package passes the new Congress. Please let us know how we can be helpful.

Sincerely,



**Kathleen T. Snyder, CCE, President/CEO
Maryland Chamber of Commerce**

**M. Richard Adams, President
Frederick County Chamber of Commerce**

**Marilyn Balcombe, Ph.D., President/CEO
Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce**

**M.H. Jim Estep, President/CEO
Greater Prince George's Business Roundtable**

**Georgette W. Godwin, President/CEO
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce**

**Claire Louder, President/CEO
West Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce**

**Virginia Mauk, Executive Director
Olney Chamber of Commerce**

**John Nussear, Executive Director
Caroline County Chamber of Commerce**

**Kelly L. Pierce, Executive Director
Greater Bowie Chamber of Commerce**

**Brien Poffenberger, President
Hagerstown-Washington County Chamber of Commerce**

**Jane Redicker, President
Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce**

**Charlie Ross, J.D., President/CEO
Garrett County Chamber of Commerce**

**Bill Scarafia, President/CEO
St. Mary's County Chamber of Commerce**

**William Seccurro, President/CEO
Harford County Chamber of Commerce**

**Rhonda Slade, Interim President/CEO
Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce**

**Fran Schmidt, Executive Director
Northern Anne Arundel County Chamber of Commerce**

**H. Walter Townshend, III, President/CEO
Baltimore/Washington Corridor Chamber of Commerce**

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