

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 9, 2009

The Honorable Charles Rangel  
Chairman  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dave Camp  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1139-E Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rangel and Ranking Member Camp:

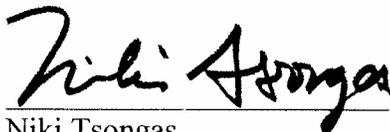
We are writing to ask that as you craft legislation to address employment or extend expiring tax measures, that you include tax incentives for empowerment zones (EZs), renewal communities (RCs), and enterprise communities (ECs) in such legislation. Several bills have been introduced in Congress to refine and extend incentives for EZ, RC, and EC areas, including H.R. 1677 and H.R. 3500, which would increase economic activity and create jobs in these economically challenged communities. The proposals included in these bills are targeted, and address current issues facing these communities including job growth and retention, poverty, and credit access for businesses. We urge you to consider these refinements to current programs and the need to pass a multi-year extension, which is necessary for generating the private and public sector decisions that will lead to job creation and retention in these areas.

By definition, the zones and communities covered by these proposals suffer from historically high rates of poverty and unemployment. For this reason, these same areas have been hit hard by the recession and the tightening of credit. These proposals increase flexibility for existing job tax credits, helping to address unemployment in these distressed areas. At the same time, the proposed refinements will free-up existing bond authority and assist job-intensive businesses with bank credit, helping improve access to credit for businesses that need it most. Finally, an extension of EZ/RC/EC tax incentives would also provide an important signal to those state and local governments that fund the administration of many of these entities as the governments consider budget priorities and note the upcoming sunset in 2009 of the incentives.

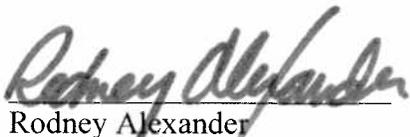
There is no question that these programs work. Recent IRS data demonstrates that from 2004 through 2006, total EZ- and RC-influenced jobs jumped almost 300% from 83,721 to 240,419. The data demonstrates that these programs are significant job creation and retention tools.

The underlying goal of the EZ/RC/EC programs is to address poverty and unemployment while promoting economic opportunity in historically challenged areas. We urge Congress to include these proposals in either a jobs or tax extenders package, which would promptly help provide a strong stimulus for our economy while preserving the jobs and economic development work of these existing zones and communities.

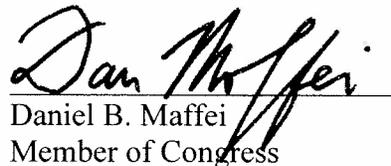
Sincerely,



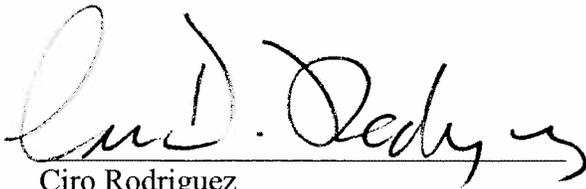
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



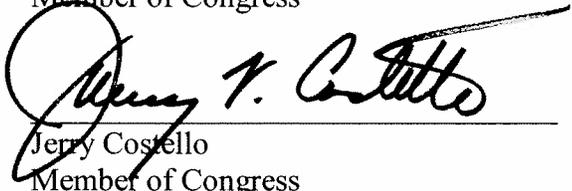
Rodney Alexander  
Member of Congress



Daniel B. Maffei  
Member of Congress



Ciro Rodriguez  
Member of Congress



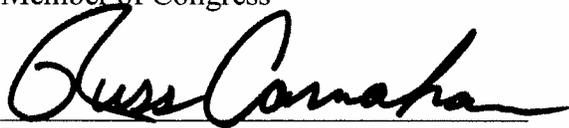
Jerry Costello  
Member of Congress



Solomon P. Ortiz  
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



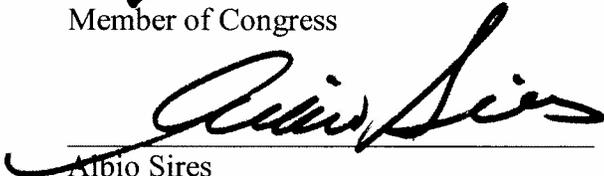
Russ Carnahan  
Member of Congress



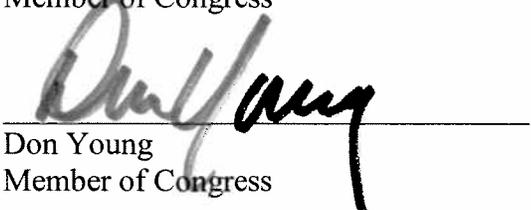
Zach Wamp  
Member of Congress



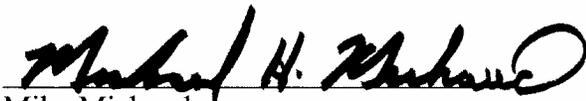
Barney Frank  
Member of Congress



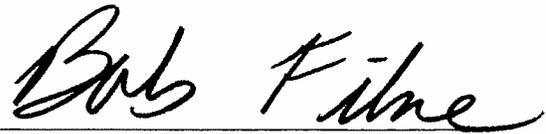
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



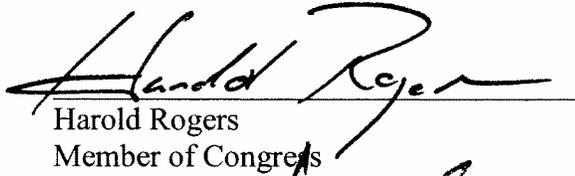
Don Young  
Member of Congress



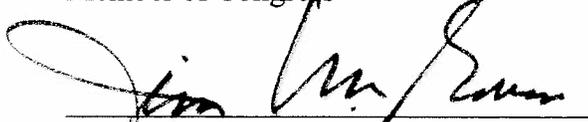
Mike Michaud  
Member of Congress



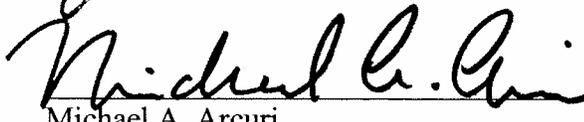
Bob Filner  
Member of Congress



Harold Rogers  
Member of Congress



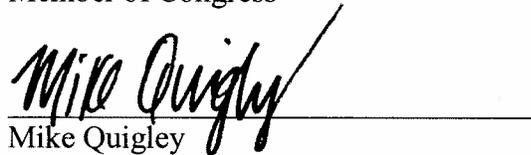
James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Michael A. Arcuri  
Member of Congress



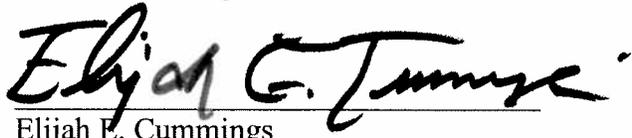
Hank Johnson  
Member of Congress



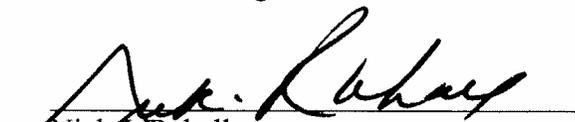
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



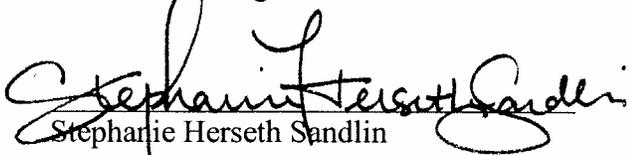
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress



Nick J. Rahall  
Member of Congress



Stephanie Herseth Sandlin  
Member of Congress

*Diane E. Watson*

Diane Watson  
Member of Congress

*Silvestre Reyes*

Silvestre Reyes  
Member of Congress

*Susan D. Davis*

Susan Davis  
Member of Congress

*Yvette D. Clarke*

Yvette Clarke  
Member of Congress

*Mazie Hirono*

Mazie K. Hirono  
Member of Congress

*Steve Driehaus*

Steve Driehaus  
Member of Congress

*Peter Welch*

Peter Welch  
Member of Congress

*Shelley Moore Capito*

Shelley Moore Capito  
Member of Congress

*John Sarbanes*

John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

*Ann Kirkpatrick*

Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress

*Adam Smith*

Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

*Doc Hastings*

Doc Hastings  
Member of Congress

*Dan Boren*

Dan Boren  
Member of Congress

*Marcia Fudge*

Marcia Fudge  
Member of Congress

*Mary Bond Mack*

Mary Bond Mack  
Member of Congress

*Tom Cole*

Tom Cole  
Member of Congress

*Ben Ray Lujan*

Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress

*Paul Tonko*

Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress

*Keith Ellison*

Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

*Charlie Wilson*

Charlie Wilson  
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro  
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress

Vic Snyder  
Vic Snyder  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives  
The Honorable John Boehner, House Republican Leader