

December 17, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Majority Whip  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jon Kyl  
Minority Whip  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Reid, McConnell, Durbin, and Kyl:

We write to urge you to pass an extension of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program before it expires on December 31, 2010. As governors of our states, we are acutely aware of the importance of TAA benefits to displaced workers, their families, and communities.

For nearly fifty years, TAA has assisted workers whose jobs are threatened or lost due to foreign competition. The program provides reemployment services and educational and monetary benefits to prepare workers to begin new careers in prospering industries. These retraining provisions of TAA are important to helping the United States maintain a flexible labor market and help ensure that those most hurt by imports and offshoring have another opportunity to care for their families.

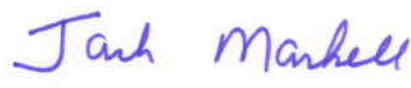
In 2009, Congress made many improvements to the program through the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act (TGAAA). These improvements are crucial to the program -- 42 percent of the workers currently covered by TAA qualify for the program due to TGAAA. TGAAA added a broader range of manufacturing workers, covered service sector employees whose jobs are lost overseas, provided training for part-time workers; and increased the Health Coverage Tax Credit for insurance costs to ensure that workers who just lost their jobs do not also face massive health insurance premium increases, among other things.

We urge you to stand with America's working families whose livelihoods are disrupted due to low-cost labor overseas. We urge you to extend these important TAA provisions for as long a period of time as can be paid for before they expire.

Sincerely,



Governor Ted Strickland  
Ohio



Governor Jack Markell  
Delaware



Governor Chester J. Culver  
Iowa



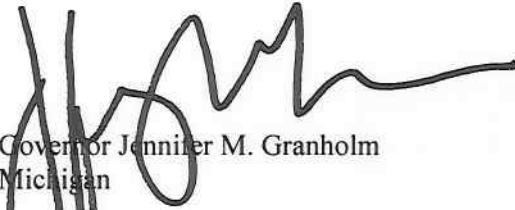
Governor Mark R. Parkinson  
Kansas



Governor Martin O'Malley  
Maryland



Governor Deval Patrick  
Massachusetts



Governor Jennifer M. Granholm  
Michigan



Governor Theodore R. Kulongoski  
Oregon



Governor Bev Perdue  
North Carolina



Governor Christine O. Gregoire  
Washington