



November 2, 2011

SUPPORT S. 1769, THE "REBUILD AMERICA JOBS ACT"

Dear Senator:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, we write to express our support for S. 1769, the Rebuild America Jobs Act. S. 1769 will create or save hundreds of thousands of jobs. We urge you to support cloture on S. 1769 and to promptly move forward with its consideration and passage.

The Rebuild America Jobs Act would provide \$50 billion of immediate investments in transportation infrastructure and \$10 billion for a national infrastructure bank, an independent institution that provides credit support to qualified infrastructure projects of regional and national significance. The infrastructure investments will benefit localities throughout the country; a significant percentage of highway funds will be programmed directly at the local level and most transit funds will be allocated to local-level transit authorities. The Act will ensure that transportation investments allow for the hiring of local workers, to maximize economic benefits for communities where projects are located and provide training investments for training, apprenticeship, and skill development programs. These provisions would be paid for by a surtax of 0.7% on income above \$1 million.

The provisions in S. 1769 are beneficial to our communities, will help boost our national economic recovery, are fiscally responsible, and have a history of bipartisan support. Every \$1 billion invested in public transportation capital and operations creates or supports: 36,000 jobs, \$3.6 billion in business sales, and nearly \$500 million in federal, state, and local tax revenues.

While we wait for long-term reauthorization of the transportation bill, Americans cannot wait for jobs. They are particularly important for African-American and Latino communities that are currently facing unemployment rates of 16 percent and 11.3 percent, respectively, well above the national average. The targeted investments in the Rebuild America Jobs Act are a necessary and fiscally responsible component of ensuring our long-term economic health and prosperity.

For these reasons, we urge you to support S. 1769 and to work towards its enactment. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Nancy Zirkin at (202) 466-3311 or Lexer Quamie, Counsel, at (202) 466-3648. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Wade Henderson
President & CEO

Nancy Zirkin
Executive Vice President

Officers
Interim Chairperson
Judith L. Lichtman
National Partnership for Women
& Families
Vice Chairperson
Karen K. Narasaki
Asian American Justice Center
Secretary
Barry Rand
AARP
Treasurer
Lee A. Saunders
American Federation of State,
County & Municipal Employees

Executive Committee
Barbara Arnwine
Lawyer's Committee For
Civil Rights Under Law
Arlene Holt Baker
AFL-CIO
Marcia Greenberger
National Women's Law Center
Linda D. Hallman
American Association of
University Women
Mary Kay Henry
Service Employees
International Union
Mark Perriello
American Association of People
with Disabilities
Benjamin Jealous
NAACP
Michael B. Keegan
People For The American Way
Floyd Mori
Japanese American Citizens
League
Marc H. Morial
National Urban League
Janet Murguia
National Council of La Raza
Debra Ness
National Partnership for Women
And Families
Terry O'Neill
National Organization for Women
Jacqueline Johnson Pata
National Congress of
American Indians
John Payton
NAACP Legal Defense and
Educational Fund, Inc.
Dennis Van Roekel
National Education Association
Anthony Romero
American Civil Liberties Union
Thomas A. Saenz
Mexican American Legal Defense
& Educational Fund
David Saperstein
Religious Action Center for
Reform Judaism
Shanna L. Smith
National Fair Housing Alliance
Joe Solomonese
Human Rights Campaign
Randi Weingarten
American Federation of Teachers
Elisabeth MacNamara
League of Women Voters
Warren David
American-Arab Anti-
Discrimination Committee

**Compliance/Enforcement
Committee Chairperson**
Karen K. Narasaki
Asian American Justice Center
President & CEO
Wade J. Henderson
Executive Vice President & COO
Karen McGill Lawson