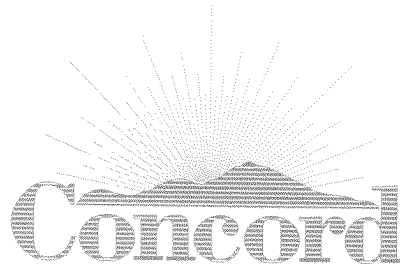


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Helen M. Allen, Vice Mayor
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William D. Shinn

Mary Rae Lehman, City Clerk
Thomas J. Wentling, City Treasurer

Daniel E. Keen, City Manager

May 3, 2010

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

RE: **SUPPORT – HR4812 – *Local Jobs for America Act***

Dear Rep. Miller:

On behalf of the City of Concord, I write to express our strong support for H.R. 4812, the Local Jobs for America Act, and thank you for your sponsorship of this important legislation.

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.

The stark reality is that economic conditions continue to worsen for local governments across the country with many local governments experiencing or projecting record budget shortfalls and being forced to institute layoffs, furloughs, service reductions, and fee increases. For example, in Concord we are faced with nearly a \$13 million deficit; this is on top of the \$8 million we were forced to trim in Fiscal Year 2009-10.

The Local Jobs for America Act is an important short-term step towards goals we know you share: keeping police officers, firefighters, and teachers on the job, restoring critical services that have been cut, 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.

Thank you again for what you do to help cities and towns in our state.

Sincerely,

Guy S. Bjerke
Mayor, City of Concord

Cc: Dan Carrigg, Legislative Director, League of California Cities