

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
MAYOR

April 22, 2010

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
United States House of Representatives
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

I am writing to express my support for H.R. 4812, the "Local Jobs for America Act," which would provide direct financial assistance to local governments that, like the City of Los Angeles, are facing personnel reductions and cutbacks in vital city services due to the economic downturn.

As you recently noted, there is a two-year lag between the beginning of an economic downturn and its impact at the local government level. Consequently, while job growth is slowly on the rise and we are beginning to see some stability in the unemployment rate, local governments now face tremendous budget shortfalls necessitating employee lay-offs and service cuts. Although the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act has provided additional programmatic funding to the City of Los Angeles, those dollars cannot be used to stabilize our budget or retain our employees.

H.R. 4812 directly addresses this issue by providing cities with funding for job retention and maintenance of service levels. I appreciate your sponsorship of this critical piece of legislation and will urge our Los Angeles congressional delegation to actively support this important measure as well.

Very truly yours,


ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

ARV:jbc

*I am ready
and willing to
testify and
do whatever you need*