

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 15, 2009

President-elect Barack Obama
Presidential Transition Office
Washington, DC 20270

Dear President-elect Obama:

Continuing to embrace your request for input from all Americans, today the House Republican Working Group on Economic Recovery heard from fellow citizens, economic experts and national leaders on what needs to be done to put our economy back on track and create jobs. The findings of the hearing further illustrate the need for an economic recovery plan that provides real tax relief that lessens the burden on our middle-class families and helps small businesses create jobs, without burying future generations under mountains of debt or squandering taxpayers' hard-earned money.

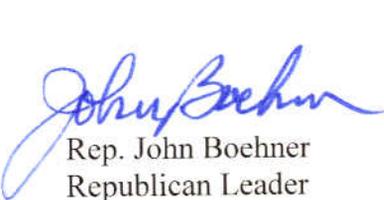
At the hearing, Members heard from Governor Mitt Romney, former eBay chief executive officer Meg Whitman, three accomplished economists and citizens from across the country. There was universal agreement among the witnesses that one-time tax relief is less effective at building confidence and growing the economy than a prolonged reduction of the tax burden on working families and small businesses.

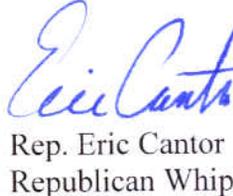
Equally vital to successfully helping the economy and sustaining job creation over the long-term, the panels emphasized, is recognizing that there is no free money, and that government spending on programs and projects that fails to create jobs and grow the economy simply passes on a large bill to future generations. Americans understand that the money we are talking about spending is their money, and they are worried about the growing national debt. Americans need an economic recovery plan that helps struggling working families and delivers sustainable tax relief to grow the economy.

Panelists at the hearing cautioned that while appropriate infrastructure spending can support economic growth, such spending alone is not "stimulative." Further, there was agreement that jobs and prosperity are created not by government, but by entrepreneurs and small businesses. An economic recovery plan should help the private sector grow and create jobs, rather than expanding government at the expense of working families and small businesses.

The sensible suggestions and warnings gained from the hearing today should be a guidepost for any economic recovery plan put forward. We once again thank you for the opportunity to offer input on this important legislation. We look forward to sharing a detailed set of responsible priorities with you which will help put the economy back on a growth path.

Sincerely,


Rep. John Boehner
Republican Leader


Rep. Eric Cantor
Republican Whip


Rep. Mike Pence
Republican Conference Chairman