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'Jobs and Economic Recovery Now!' Campaign Launched to Pass Obama Economic Recovery Plan in Face of Worst Economic Crisis Since the Great Depression

As Part of a National Campaign Effort, MN ACORN, AFSCME Council 5, Alliance for a Better MN, Americans United for Change, Jewish Community Action, JOBS NOW Coalition, UFCW Local 789 and USAction Urged MN Congressional delegation to Support Major Obama Economic Recovery Plan to Create Jobs Now and Make America's Economy Stronger in the Future

St. Paul, MN – Amid a worsening economic recession that has left nearly 2 million Americans without jobs and over 2.5 million more without homes this year, a coalition of the progressive, faith and labor communities launched the local 'Jobs and Economic Recovery Now' campaign as part of a national campaign effort urging MN Members of Congress to support President-Elect Barack Obama's plan to create millions of jobs now through smart public investments that will also ensure a stronger future for the American economy.

"President-Elect Obama's bold economic recovery plan will pave the way for immediate job creation through solid and sound investments in health care, energy efficiency, transportation and education," said Denise Cardinal, Executive Director of Alliance for a Better MN. "Following 8 years of misguided economic policies that gave priority to tax breaks for multimillionaires and big corporations, the Obama plan will get America's disappearing middle-class working again right away and make smart, long-term investments that will keep them working long after," she also said.

Locally and nationally, the 'Jobs and Economic Recovery Now' campaign will employ all of the tools of a traditional campaign, including a massive grassroots movement and paid advertising, to pass the economic recovery package by strong bipartisan margins in the House and Senate in January with the goal of having it on the President's desk soon after he is sworn in on January 20th.

Addressing the worst economic crisis the nation has seen since the Great Depression, President-Elect Obama, during his [December 6th radio address](#), outlined priorities to be included in his economic recovery plan, including the single largest investment in U.S. national infrastructure since the creation of the federal highway system in the 1950s, as well as massive investments towards

making public buildings more energy-efficient, upgrading and modernizing schools buildings, and modernizing our health care system – investments that will help create at least two and a half million jobs. The plan is said to include careful, targeted spending with strong "use it or lose it" accountability measures.

Jerry Serfling of AFSCME Council 5 added, "Today we're heading down that path with 165,000 Minnesotans looking for work. When workers lose their homes, their jobs and their health care, the need for government help soars. To help struggling families survive this recession, we need to invest in health care, food stamps and unemployment assistance. President - Elect Obama knows what Franklin Delano Roosevelt knew. Good jobs create an economy that works. To stave off another depression, Minnesota needs public investment to create good jobs."

The major investments that President Elect Obama has outlined towards modernizing energy conservation systems in schools and federal buildings will save American taxpayers billions of dollars, reduce the nation's dependence on foreign oil, and create hundreds of thousands of new clean energy jobs.

The income of state and local governments has plummeted under the Bush economy. As a result, many have been forced to make cutbacks in critical services like health care, education, and nutrition programs for children. To prevent these cuts, the plan will likely also include increased federal aid to states and local communities to fund law enforcement, education, health care for children and low-income families, and other services.

The incomes of the top one percent of the population have exploded in recent years, while the middle class is being squeezed like never before. With thousands of middle class American families each day losing their jobs, homes, and healthcare under the Bush economy, the time has come for economic policies that work for everyone, not just the wealthy special interests in Washington.

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