

October 10, 2011

The Honorable John A. Boehner, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Democratic Leader
The Honorable Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Republican Leader
The Honorable Bill Nelson, United States Senate
The Honorable Marco Rubio, United States Senate
The Honorable Members of the U.S. House of Representatives serving the State of Florida

Dear Honorable Congressional Leadership and Florida Delegation,

As the Mayors of cities and towns in Florida, we represent a large number of Americans struggling in this economy. With Florida's unemployment at 10.7%, we see firsthand the foreclosed homes, the shuttered businesses, and the crumbling infrastructure in our communities. Far too often, we speak with citizens who have been laid off and are desperately searching for new jobs.

We cannot wait any longer. It is time for Congress to act now by passing the jobs plan.

This critical legislation will help create jobs for construction workers, teachers, first responders, veterans, and the long-term unemployed. It reduces taxes for small businesses that hire new workers, modernizes our schools, and makes critical investments in our transportation infrastructure.

This should not be a partisan issue. As the President has mentioned, the proposals in the jobs plan have been supported by both Democrats and Republicans. The targeted investments in transportation, job training, public schools, and public safety will foster a robust, long-term financial recovery for our cities and the nation as a whole.

The rhetoric and inaction must come to an end. Our nation has a cherished history of rising to challenges and conquering them with determined resolve. It is time for us to follow in that tradition. On behalf of our citizens, we urge you to pass the jobs plan now.

Sincerely,

John R. Marks III
Mayor, City of Tallahassee

Kathleen A. Mortensen
Mayor, City of Belleair Beach

Franklin Schuler
Mayor, Town of Bronson

Michael Blake
Mayor, City of Cocoa

Peter Rust
Mayor, City of Davenport

Nelson S. "Woodie" McDuffie
Mayor, City of Delray Beach

Bruce Mount
Mayor, City of Eatonville

Craig Lowe
Mayor, City of Gainesville

Joy Cooper
Mayor, City of Hallandale Beach

Jim Richards
Mayor, Town of Lady Lake

Jim Catron
Mayor, City of Madison

Lori Cohen Moseley
Mayor, City of Miramar

Randall Wise
Mayor, City of Niceville

David W. Myers
Mayor, Town of Ocean Breeze Park

Harley Strickland
Mayor, City of Orange City

Buddy Dyer
Mayor, City of Orlando

Vernon Myers
Mayor, City of Palatka

Frank Ortis
Mayor, City of Pembroke Pines

Ashton J. Hayward
Mayor, City of Pensacola

Joe LaCascia
Mayor, City of Polk City

Thomas A. Masters
Mayor, City of Riviera Beach

Jimmy Johnson
Mayor, City of Seminole

Dr. Philip K. Stoddard
Mayor, City of South Miami

Bob Buckhorn
Mayor, City of Tampa

David O. Archie
Mayor, City of Tarpon Springs