



101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 600 West, Washington, DC 20001

Arizona State University

December 12, 2008

California State University –  
13 Member Schools

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U. S. House of Representatives  
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
House Republican Leader  
U. S. House of Representatives  
H-204 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

City University of New York –  
City College

Florida International University

Georgia State University

Indiana University-Purdue  
University Indianapolis

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Republican Leader Boehner:

Morgan State University

On behalf of the Coalition of Urban Serving Universities (USU), we urge Congress to pass an economic stimulus plan early next year.

North Carolina State University

Ohio State University

USU is a network of public urban research universities that represents every region of our country. University presidents created USU to leverage the intellectual capital and economic power of urban universities, thereby improving urban life and America's competitiveness in the global economy. To this end, USU is focused on three major issues -- creating a competitive workforce, building strong communities, and improving the health of a diverse population.

Portland State University

Temple University

Tennessee State University

University of Akron

University of Alabama -  
Birmingham

While we face many challenges, none is more urgent than the economic recovery of our nation. It is clear that any successful and sustainable recovery must involve investing in our urban communities. USU applauds congressional efforts to include provisions targeted at K-12 school construction, transportation and infrastructure, and job training.

University of Central Florida

University of Cincinnati

University of Colorado – Denver

University of Houston

During this economic crisis, public urban research universities stand ready and able to play an important role in producing economic stability for our nation's cities and metropolitan areas. These universities are economic drivers and create the jobs, growth, and revenues on which urban areas and our country depend. Public urban research universities are also uniquely positioned and prepared to address critical talent issues by enrolling and graduating students in high-need fields, such as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. USU supports a final economic recovery package that addresses funding for Pell grants, student loans, and basic research at the National Institutes of Health and other federal agencies.

University of Illinois at Chicago

University of Louisville

University of Memphis

University of Minnesota

University of Missouri –  
Kansas City

University of New Mexico

University of New Orleans

Virginia Commonwealth  
University

As anchors for our nation's cities, public urban research universities are directly involved in partnerships and outreach with our communities. USU campuses provide technical assistance and support to local and regional businesses and development organizations. Through our work these groups build their capacities

Wichita State University

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to pursue economic development projects and activities. Our universities also engage in housing and community development assistance, such as rehabilitating neighborhood homes and abandoned properties; providing loans to local residents and organizations to purchase homes and start up companies; and constructing public facilities for recreational purposes.

USU encourages Congress to build upon stimulus provisions aimed at the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and Department and Housing and Urban Development by escalating university engagement and the ability of these institutions to leverage their resources. Specifically, we request that Congress provide additional funding for the University Centers program at EDA to establish centers in states and regions, including major metropolitan areas, where they do not currently exist. USU also calls on Congress to create a housing and urban development grant assistance program for universities to provide technical and financial assistance to non-profit organizations to undertake community development and affordable housing projects.

Through these and similar endeavors to tie public urban research universities with their communities, we will continue to bolster our nation's economic competitiveness and make our cities a better place to live. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues, by offering our policy ideas and access to our many experts, as you craft a final economic stimulus bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy L. Zimpher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Nancy L. Zimpher  
Chair, Coalition of Urban Serving Universities  
President, University of Cincinnati

Cc: House Committee on Appropriations Chair Obey; House Committee on Appropriations Ranking Member Lewis; House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Chair Oberstar; House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Ranking Member Mica; House Committee on Financial Services Chair Frank; House Committee on Financial Services Ranking Member Bachus



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Majority Leader  
U. S. Senate  
S-221 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U. S. Senate  
S-230 U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Sincerely,



Nancy L. Zimpher  
Chair, Coalition of Urban Serving Universities  
President, University of Cincinnati

Cc: Senate Committee on Appropriations Chair-elect Inouye; Senate Committee on Appropriations Ranking Member Cochran; Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Chair Boxer; Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works Ranking Member Inhofe; Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Chair Dodd; Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Ranking Member Shelby