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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2002

July 15, 2010

The Hon. Harry Reid
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

America is pulling itself out of the worst recession since the Great Depression. Since 2008, our country has lost close to 8 million jobs. We have seen six months of job growth, but millions of Americans are still searching for work. In these difficult economic times, Congress must do everything it can to get Americans back on their feet. On July 1, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5618, the "Restoration of Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act," providing a desperately-needed extension of unemployment benefits for millions of American families who have fallen on tough times.

When it comes to stimulating the economy, economists agree that extending unemployment benefits is the most immediate and cost effective thing Congress can do. In fact, research shows that every \$1 spent on unemployment benefits generates more than \$1.60 in new economic growth. Nearly every penny is quickly spent on basic necessities. Previous extensions provided Maryland families with \$819 million more in emergency benefits over the past fiscal year, contributing \$1.3 billion to the state economy.

The bill is simply about common sense and compromise. It extends the Emergency Unemployment Compensation and Extended Benefits programs through November 30, 2010. The legislation would retroactively restore benefits to people who may have started losing their benefits as early as the end of May, some after just 26 weeks. It will provide struggling families with a critical lifeline until the economy can fully rebound.

The clock is ticking. If this continues, 17,700 Marylanders and 2.5 million Americans will lose their unemployment benefits by the end of this week. If the Senate does not act now, even more families will suffer. We can't afford to wait another month or even another week. It's time to bring this legislation to a vote and extend unemployment benefits for hurting American families who are without work through no fault of their own.

Sincerely,



C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress

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