

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 30, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Republican Leader McConnell:

We are writing to express our deep concern regarding the expiration of federal support for unemployment insurance at the end of the year. Unemployment insurance is an essential component of our ongoing economic recovery and provides support to workers and their families who have been laid off through no fault of their own as they search for work.

The economy has had 32 straight months of private sector job growth and created a total of 5.4 million jobs during that time. Unfortunately, the unemployment rate remains elevated, 12.3 million Americans are out of work, and there are 3.4 unemployed workers for every job opening. In light of this unacceptable jobs situation, it is crucial that we focus on ways to get Americans back to work and that we continue unemployment insurance through 2013. Failure to continue unemployment insurance before December 29, 2012 will immediately cause over 2 million unemployed Americans to lose federal benefits and would by April deny support to an additional 1 million Americans as they exhaust their state benefits.

Continuation of unemployment insurance has in the past, though often after much unnecessary delay, passed on a bipartisan basis. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, independent economists, and policy think tanks have consistently found that unemployment insurance is one of our best economic stabilizers and generates tremendous bang for the buck relative to other economic policies. Given the potency and efficiency of unemployment insurance there should be no reason to let it lapse or expire. Indeed, a recent analysis found that every dollar of UI generates \$1.60 in economic activity and failure to continue unemployment insurance through 2013 would reduce economic growth by \$48 billion and sap 400,000 jobs from the economy.

Because of the significant impact on the unemployed, their families, and the economy we urge you to ensure that unemployment insurance is continued before its expiration and through 2013.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Daniel K. Akaka

Daniel Akaka
United States Senator

Tom Harkin

Tom Harkin
United States Senator

Barbara Mikulski

Barbara Mikulski
United States Senator

John F. Kerry

John Kerry
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Tom Udall

Tom Udall
United States Senator

Carl Levin

Carl Levin
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders

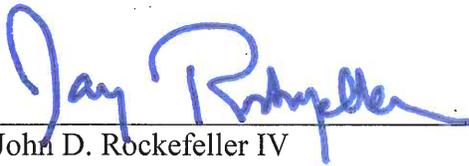
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Frank R. Lautenberg

Frank R. Lautenberg
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



John D. Rockefeller IV
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



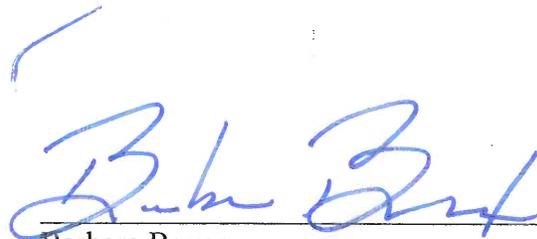
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



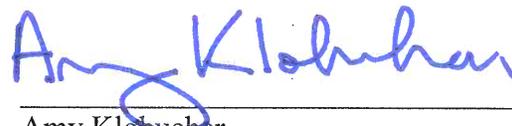
Al Franken
United States Senator



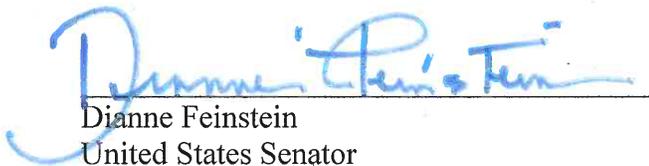
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



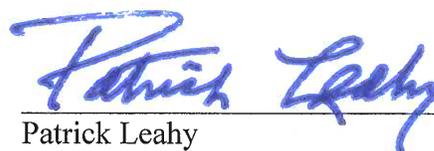
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



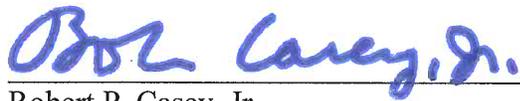
Robert Menendez
United States Senator



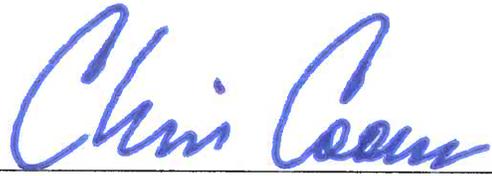
Herb Kohl
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



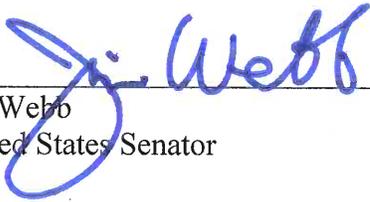
Chris Coons
United States Senator



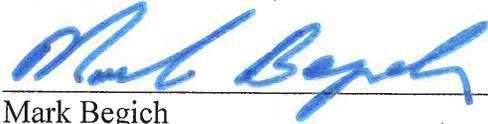
Richard Durbin
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Jim Webb
United States Senator



Mark Begich
United States Senator



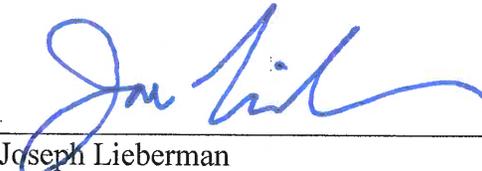
Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Chuck Schumer
United States Senator



Mark Warner
United States Senator



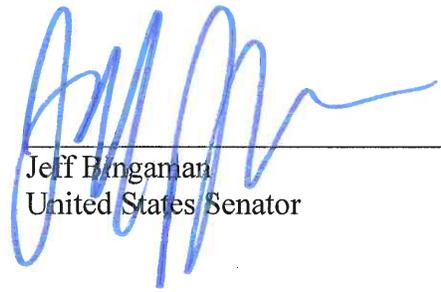
Joseph Lieberman
United States Senator



Mary Landrieu
United States Senator



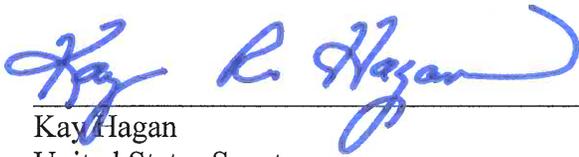
Michael Bennet
United States Senator



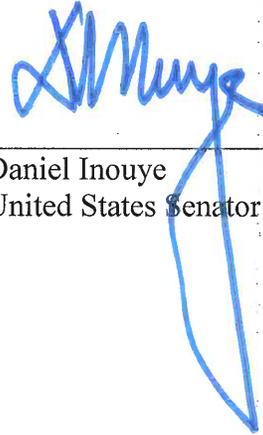
Jeff Bingaman
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Kay Hagan
United States Senator



Daniel Inouye
United States Senator