



April 23, 2010

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. President:

Enclosed is a draft bill entitled the "Public Works and Economic Development Improvements Act of 2010." This bill reauthorizes the programs of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) for five years and makes several technical changes to EDA's organic statute, the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (PWEDA). Also enclosed are a statement of purpose and need and sectional analysis, and a document showing relevant portions of the statute as amended.

Reauthorizing EDA represents an important opportunity to advance America's economic recovery. This summer, EDA will celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enactment of PWEDA. Since its enactment, this statute has provided EDA with the flexibility to help America's distressed communities respond to long-term economic decline and to the wrenching "sudden and severe" economic dislocations caused by the loss of a major employer or natural disaster. This flexibility has served the agency well.

The great economic challenges we face today require a considered effort to ensure that EDA works even more effectively to help American communities, businesses, and employees compete in the global marketplace of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Reauthorization in 2010 presents a window of opportunity to modernize EDA – aligning its priorities and program structures to improve the competitiveness of American communities. National economic development policies must reflect the importance of collaborative regional innovation initiatives as the new framework for sustainable economic growth.

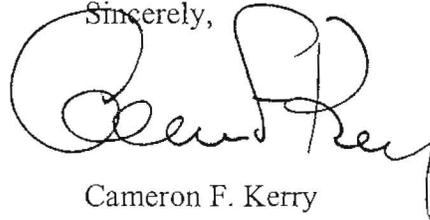
I encourage the Congress to consider the enclosed amendments as it takes up legislation to reauthorize the agency. The Department of Commerce and EDA are looking forward to working with Congress to ensure passage of reauthorization legislation in 2010.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the transmittal of this legislative proposal to the Congress and that its enactment would be in

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accord with the program of the President. If you have any questions, please contact me or April Boyd, Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cameron F. Kerry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "K".

Cameron F. Kerry

Enclosures

IDENTICAL LETTERS SENT TO

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of  
Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny H. Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable James Oberstar  
Chairman, Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: The Honorable John Mica  
Ranking Member

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Chair, Subcommittee on Economic  
Development, Public Buildings and  
Emergency Management  
Committee on Transportation and  
Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

cc: The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Ranking Member

The Honorable Barbara Boxer  
Chairman, Committee on Environment  
and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
Ranking Member

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman, Subcommittee on  
Transportation and Infrastructure  
Cte on Environment & Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: The Honorable George Voinovich  
Ranking Member