

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 31, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

It was recently announced that it is your intention to propose a new legislative initiative in a few days that would attempt to spur on our languishing economy and create new employment opportunities for unemployed Americans. I have heard from thousands of Nevadans during town halls I conducted both in person and over the phone. Nevadans want to know how we are going to fix our economy and create jobs. With my state experiencing the nation's highest unemployment rate at 12.9 percent, the simple fact is that many Nevadans are hurting and struggling to hold on to the American dream. This difficult situation provides a great opportunity to show that Democrats and Republicans can come together in a bi-partisan manner and develop sound long-term policies that can promote private sector job growth.

As you continue to craft your new economic proposal, I wish to submit to you some suggestions that I have heard from citizens in Nevada that will not only help my state, but every American:

1) Fundamental Tax Reform

The current tax code is too costly, too complex, and too burdensome. Broad-based tax reform will allow families to thrive and employers to create jobs. We must broaden the tax base by closing loopholes and reducing marginal tax rates on both individuals and businesses. Tax simplification would also save individuals and businesses both money and time allowing Americans to infuse much-needed capital. Equally important, is that we must reduce our corporate tax rates which are currently too costly and putting us at a disadvantage. Many of the top 50 economic countries have reduced their corporate tax rate in the last eight years. Lower corporate tax rates in the U.S. will allow our businesses and manufacturers to have a level playing field in the global economy and will allow them to demonstrate the exceptionalism of American made goods and services around the world.

2) Create Certainty for Individuals and Businesses

The substantial increase in new regulations by Washington bureaucrats have eliminated jobs and stopped the creation of new ones. Business owners are too often forced to fight cumbersome rules and regulations rather than spend time investing in their companies and creating new jobs. Uncertainty of future regulations chills capital formation and can leave U.S. businesses with less capital if this money is diverted to foreign markets. We should eliminate burdensome and costly regulations by passing legislation that will ensure an open regulatory process and reduce the red tape affecting many American businesses.

3) Get Washington's Fiscal House in Order and End Bailouts

While important fiscal reforms have been adopted to help reduce federal spending, we need to do even more to end Washington's systemic spending binges. Enacting a Balanced Budget Amendment, cutting wasteful foreign spending, and eliminating duplicative federal government programs are good first steps to helping our economy in the long term. Also, ending the culture of federal bailouts and returning to free market, and capitalistic principles is critical for our success. It is not fair to saddle the American public with the debt and bills of those who have acted irresponsibly.

4) A Sound National Energy Policy

With gas prices at more than \$3.60 a gallon in Nevada coupled with rising electricity rates, energy costs are hurting our economic viability and limiting employment opportunities. Focus should be given to establishing a broad-based solution that expands domestic energy exploration, production, and refinement. In addition to increasing production of traditional energy sources, we must also encourage the development of innovative energy technologies. Nevada can serve as a model for the federal government. We developed a reasonable renewable energy portfolio standard that is achievable based on the vast geothermal, solar and wind resources we have in the state. I have supported a Renewable Portfolio Standard in the past and believe that by following Nevada's model and combining our renewable resources with advanced forms of traditional fuels, America can work towards achieving energy independence in a responsible manner.

I frequently ask Nevadans whether they think that their children will have a better way of life than the one we enjoyed. The resounding answer is no. I work every day to try and reverse that course by making job creation my top priority. I look forward to working with you and Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate to develop policies that will create new employment opportunities for Nevadans. I appreciate your consideration of these suggestions and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



U.S. Senator Dean Heller