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February 24, 2009

Governor Mitch Daniels
State of Indiana
Statehouse
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Governor Daniels:

Last week, the president signed *The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009* which was designed to put people back to work and jumpstart our economy. Included in this package is approximately \$4 billion for the State of Indiana to make smart investments in our infrastructure, improve Hoosier schools, and assist those workers who have been hurt by the current economy. These are important investments that I believe will help create jobs and allow our state to continue on a path of economic growth.

While the impacts of the current economy—the credit crunch, mortgage crisis, and high unemployment—are far-reaching, it is important to recognize that some communities, such as Elkhart and Marshall Counties, have been impacted more than others. For this reason, I worked with my colleagues in Congress to ensure that a portion of the economic recovery money is targeted to those communities that have been hit the hardest.

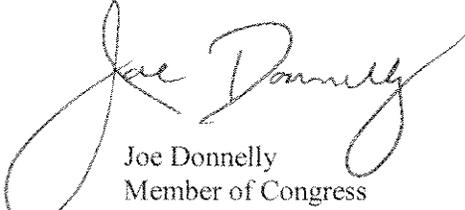
Specifically, Title XII of *The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act* requires that, when selecting projects eligible for funding through the Federal Highway Administration, states must give priority to projects that can be completed within a three-year time frame, are part of state or metropolitan plans, and are located in economically distressed areas as defined by section 301 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3161).

Section 301 of this act defines distressed areas as those areas suffering from (1) low per capita income; (2) unemployment rate above the national average, and (3) areas that have or are about to experience a special need arising from actual or threatened severe unemployment or economic adjustment problems resulting from short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions.

As you are aware, many of the communities in north central Indiana are suffering a disproportionate burden resulting from recent changes in economic conditions. I respectfully request that both you and Commissioner Browning give the above factors careful consideration as you begin to make decisions as how to best allocate our state's recovery dollars effectively.

I look forward to working with you and your Administration to strengthen our economy, improve our communities, and help put Hoosiers back to work.

Sincerely,



Joe Donnelly
Member of Congress