

September 6, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

First, let me thank you, the First Lady, Vice President Biden, and Dr. Biden for visiting the great State of Iowa today. Your visit reinforces your commitment to getting Iowa's economy back on track and focusing on the furtherance and well-being of the middle class in our state.

Iowa's economy, like much of the rest of the nation's, is still struggling to recover from the worst recession since the Great Depression. There are many issues Congress should be working on instead of being on vacation for five weeks, for which they left a day early. I called on House Leadership to stay in session to address these critical issues as the American people expect action out of Congress, not more of the same political games and obstinacy. They also certainly expect Congress to work more than eight days in the month of September.

I know you understand the importance of getting our economy back on track so I respectfully ask for your strong support in pushing Congress to address critical issues such as the economy and job creation, the farm bill and drought relief, the wind energy credit, and the looming fiscal cliff which has the potential to send the economy back into recession if not unaddressed. Any one of these issues if left unaddressed has the potential to lead to a loss of jobs and a loss of productivity for the economy.

As you are aware, monthly unemployment numbers were released this morning and they are more unacceptable than ever. Unfortunately, for the past two years, we've not seen much action on initiatives to get the economy back on track and instead have been subjected to the same tired political games and brinksmanship Iowans are frankly tired of. We need you to be a forceful leader and rally the American people behind pushing Congress to take action on these important issues to get our economy working again and creating jobs.

One of the top issues for the State of Iowa is making sure our agriculture economy and related manufacturing sector remain strong. In order to address the historic drought that has been gripping the Midwest and give farmers the certainty they need to make planting and investment decisions, passing a farm bill should be a high priority when Congress returns and should have been done before Congress went on vacation in August. The Senate has already passed a bipartisan bill but unfortunately House Republican Leadership refuses to bring a bill to the floor. I've been leading the charge in the House to pass a new farm bill and drought relief as soon as possible and I hope you will continue your strong advocacy on behalf of Iowa's rural economy.

Another important issue for Iowa's economy is growing renewable energy production and manufacturing jobs. The wind energy industry has blossomed in our state which produces the second highest amount of wind energy in the nation. The wind energy industry in Iowa currently employs around 6,000 and involves over 200 companies across 50 counties in the manufacturing of wind energy products. Thank you for your strong advocacy for the wind energy production credit and while it's disturbing to hear Republican Leaders not supporting the wind credit, with your strong advocacy for renewal of the production tax credit, Iowa's wind energy industry can continue to provide good paying jobs to Iowans.

As the nation continues to recover from the Great Recession, we are facing the risk of severe harm if the wind energy credit and additional numerous issues aren't addressed by Congress in the coming months, now known as the "fiscal cliff." If Congress continues to play its usual political games we have seen over the past two years and doesn't address looming tax issues, middle class tax cuts, unemployment, and sequestration, signals to the American people, the financial markets, and businesses will continue to be negative and create an even worse anti-investment and anti-growth environment. Congress should have acted faster to address the looming fiscal cliff and now is the time for your advocacy in pushing Congress to get the work done and take responsible action on the issues the American people expect Congress to work on.

As a strong advocate for the middle class, you understand that Congress' continued inability to address these important issues is leading to continued hardship for our economy and a failure to act would be disastrous for our economic recovery in Iowa. Thank you again for visiting our state, and I respectfully urge your strong support for pushing Congress to take action on these pressing issues for our nation's future.

Sincerely,

Dave Loeb sack
Iowa's Second District