



**National Employment  
Law Project**

Christine L. Owens,  
Executive Director

**National Office**

75 Maiden Lane, Suite 601  
New York, NY 10038  
(212) 285-3025 tel  
(212) 285-3044 fax  
nelp@nelp.org  
www.nelp.org

**Washington, DC Office**

1620 Eye Street NW, Suite 210  
Washington, DC 20006  
(202)-887-8202 tel  
(202) 785-8949 fax

**California Office**

405 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1400  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 663-5700 tel  
(510) 663-2028 fax

**Midwest Office**

900 Victors Way, Suite 350  
Ann Arbor, MI 48108  
(734) 369-5616 tel  
(866) 373-8994 fax

**West Coast Office**

1225 S. Weller Street Suite: 205  
Seattle, WA 98144  
(206) 324-4000 tel  
(866) 882-5467 fax

**Board of Directors**

Elaise L. Fox  
*UFCW Local 1657*

Lilia Garcia  
*Maintenance Cooperation  
Trust Fund*

James Haughton  
*Director, Fight Back*

Jonathan Hiatt,  
*AFL-CIO*

Lucille Logan  
*Community Activist*

Walter Meginniss  
*Gladstein, Reif & Meginniss*

James Sessions  
*East Tennessee Interfaith  
Coalition for Worker Justice*

Thomas Weeks  
*Ohio State Legal Services Assoc.*

Cathy Wilkinson  
*Low-Wage Worker Activist*

May 24, 2010

Representative Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative John Boehner  
House Minority Leader  
H-204 Capitol Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Sander M. Levin  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Representative Dave Camp  
341 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: HR 4213, The American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Boehner, Chairman Levin and Ranking Member Camp:

The National Employment Law Project (NELP) writes in enthusiastic support of HR 4213, The American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010. NELP is a non-profit organization that promotes policies and programs that create good jobs, strengthen upward mobility, enforce hard-won worker rights, and help unemployed workers regain their economic footing.

Today's long-term unemployed workers are facing extraordinarily difficult challenges. Job loss since the recession began has been deeper and more sustained than at any time since the Great Depression, and all estimates are that unemployment will remain high through 2011. And long-term unemployment is at its highest level and rate on record.

The assistance that Congress and the Administration have provided for unemployed workers and their families over the last two years has been nothing short of a life-line to them and their communities. We applaud the effort to extend three important unemployment insurance programs, Emergency Unemployment Compensation (EUC), the full federal funding of Extended Benefits (EB), and the Federal Additional Compensation (FAC) of \$25 per week, and the 15-month COBRA subsidy, through the end of 2010. Those in our nation who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own, and cannot find new employment before their state benefits run out, need and deserve no less.

Presently, more than 45% of those who are unemployed have been without a job for more than six months. According to the Department of Labor's JOLTS survey, there is only one job opening for every 5.5 people looking for one. The average duration of unemployment is over 31 weeks. All of these numbers are record highs, demonstrating the depth of the jobs crisis that remains, notwithstanding promising signs of recovery. And allowing these invaluable unemployment and health care benefits to lapse could threaten the recovery, leading to a rise in foreclosures and drying up of resources flowing into communities. The tentative job creation we have seen could erode all at once.

We applaud your efforts to deal with extending these programs and subsidies in a long-term fashion. The recent stop-gap extensions have wreaked havoc on the people who have come to depend on them and the state workforce agencies that administer the unemployment programs. They all need and deserve the certainty that these programs will remain in effect until at least the end of 2010. In addition, there are extremely important conversations needed about how to support and help those who are unemployed for so long, they have exhausted all of the federally extended benefits. The necessity of repeatedly addressing short-term extensions of existing programs has distracted from opportunities to consider next steps to assist this particularly desperate group of unemployed workers.

We ask that both parties work together to pass HR 4213, helping those workers hurt most in the recession and preserving the path to economic recovery for the nation overall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine L. Owens". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Christine L. Owens  
Executive Director