

COUNTY OF SONOMA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
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MIKE KERNS
SUPERVISOR SECOND DISTRICT

December 19, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
President-Elect of the United States
Presidential Transition Team
Washington, DC 20270

RE: Federal Stimulus Package

Dear President-Elect Obama:

As the representatives of cities and county governments within Sonoma County's portion of the 6th Congressional District, we urge the strongest action be taken to provide vital resources to local governments during these extraordinary times. The economic crisis our nation is experiencing is threatening to decimate our ability to meet the basic needs of our citizens. We ask that any proposed federal stimulus package include direct, effective and substantial aid for local governments.

As you know, any proposed federal stimulus package must be immediate and large enough to effectively jump start our economy and make the best short and long term investments. Further, it must ensure that the vital social fabric that allows our people to prosper, our businesses to grow and our neighborhoods to thrive is maintained and strengthened. Local governments are not only the front line of service to our citizens, we are neighbors, residents and partners with our communities working daily to ensure that that we have a decent quality of life. From economic development to infrastructure, public safety, climate protection and health and human services, our jurisdictions are serving our nation. We ask for a stimulus package that reflects this reality.

If current economic trends continue unabated by a viable stimulus package, our jurisdictions will see several hundred direct layoffs impacting services in police and fire capacity, in health and human services and in those agencies that aid in economic development. More layoffs will have a multiplier effect as workers lose their ability to pay for health care, pay their mortgages and participate in the local economy. Further, the lack of services will worsen the social challenges that are brought on by any economic downturn, namely increases in crime, a lack of job placement programs, the increase in need for mental health services and health care access. Infrastructure needs, already woefully underfunded, would further grow and we would see a greater loss of private employment opportunities as well as deterioration of our commerce network. Beyond existing needs, our jurisdictions have new innovative efforts to build a new

green economy. The stimulus proposal must contain adequate start up funding to push forward local governments efforts at climate protection.

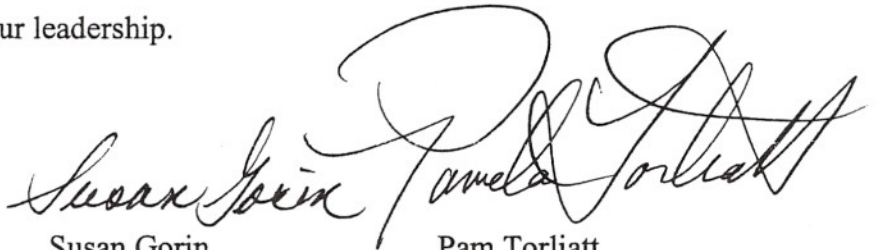
We can help put people to work today and have the lists of effective projects and programs to prove it. We are asking for a large federal stimulus package that is of a size and scope equal to, if not greater than, the recently passed Wall Street Rescue proposal. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and wish to impress upon you the outstanding and unparalleled need that local governments are facing. We are working with our Member of Congress, Representative Lynn Woolsey, to ensure that this effort happen soon

Thank you for your consideration and your leadership.

Sincerely,

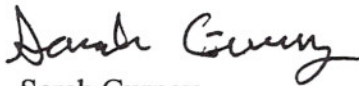


Supervisor Mike Kerns
Chair and Second District Supervisor,
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

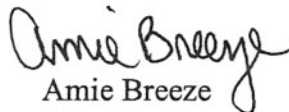


Susan Gorin,
Mayor,
City of Santa Rosa

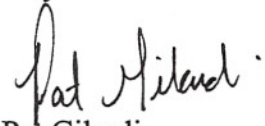
Pam Torliatt
Mayor,
City of Petaluma



Sarah Gurney
Mayor,
City of Sebastopol



Amie Breeze
Mayor,
City Of Rohnert Park



Pat Gilardi
Mayor,
City of Cotati



Ken Brown
Mayor,
City of Sonoma

CC: Representative Lynn Woolsey
Representative Mike Thompson
Senator Barbara Boxer
Senator Dianne Feinstein