

Amy Klobuchar OUR UNITED STATES SENATOR



February 17, 2009

Today, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the first important step towards getting our country's economy back on track. We all know that this economy will not turn around overnight. But we also know that the time for action is now. We need the jobs and we need the long term investment in America.

For years our country has been adrift, with bridges falling, schools decaying, and science lagging.

We all know now is the time to invest. As the President noted the other evening when he addressed the nation, in January alone our country lost 598,000 jobs--that's the equivalent of all the jobs in the state of Maine. And these are not just statistics. These are real people, living in the state of Minnesota-- the couple who writes and tells me that every night after they put their daughters to bed, they sit at the kitchen table with their heads in their hands wondering how they are going to make ends meet, the woman who inherited a small amount of money she was going to use for her daughter's wedding but is now using it for her retirement because she lost so much of her savings.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will give our economy the jolt it needs in the near term while also building the foundation for longer-term prosperity.

This legislation provides economic assistance aimed directly at Main Street. It provides economic relief to working families, small businesses and seniors, including a tax cut for more than 2 million working families in Minnesota. It also gives critical support to states and communities so they can ensure a safety net for families hurt by the economic downturn. And it is estimated to save or create 3.5 million jobs, including an estimated 66,000 jobs in Minnesota.

At the core of this legislation is jobs. Just as we built back our economy after the Great Depression with WPA projects that are still with us today, this plan will put Americans back to work by rebuilding our roads, bridges and schools, by investing in homegrown renewable energy, and by expanding our high-speed Internet infrastructure.

I'm proud to have championed infrastructure, Internet and police funding in the bill. I led the charge in the Senate to make sure Minnesota and other states which had seen recent increases in unemployment got their fair share of Medicaid funding. I also pushed for more investment in our schools.

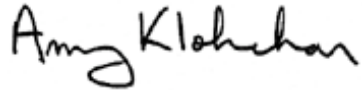
No one considers this a perfect bill. I don't agree with everything that's in it and everything that came out, but I knew we had to act.

Over the coming months, I will continue to do what's needed to get our economy back on track and restore our footing on the path to opportunity.

It is good to be back in Minnesota this week. I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Amy Klobuchar

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Klobuchar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Amy

Paid for by Klobuchar for Minnesota, www.amyklobuchar.com

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