

June 15, 2011

Dear Congressman,

The Southern New Jersey Development Council represents a substantial economic footprint throughout the region, with over 300 companies proudly working to accelerate the still-fragile economic recovery. For this reason, we urge your support for a proposal that would allow many of the region's employers the flexibility to invest more money in local jobs and spending.

We know you share our goal of developing ways to promote investment, innovation and competition in New Jersey. The Development Council is committed to strengthening the presence and impact of jobs in the region, but our member's ability to grow is hindered by a sometimes punitive federal corporate tax system that contains the second highest corporate rate in the world. Federal policymakers from both sides of the aisle have identified this antiquated tax system as an obstacle to unleashing a 21st century economy, and reform is absolutely essential to keeping this nation competitive.

That is why the Development Council is asking you to support H.R. 1834, the *Freedom to Invest Act of 2011*, a bipartisan bill introduced by Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Rep. Jim Matheson (D-UT). The measure would ease the current tax penalty on foreign earnings, over \$1 trillion of which is estimated to be sitting overseas. Unlike the monetary and fiscal stimulus policies often discussed, repatriation neither triggers inflation nor adds to the deficit.

Congress enacted a similar measure in 2004 which had an overwhelmingly positive impact, with companies reinvesting over \$300 billion back into the American economy, creating jobs, financing new plants and developing new R & D projects. It also increased federal revenues, increased the GDP, and contributed to lowering the unemployment rate. But now, the longer the money sits overseas, the more pressure companies will feel from shareholders to spend it overseas – boosting the economies of our global competitors.

At a time when there is growing economic unease about jobs, gas prices and the budget, this commonsense solution will empower some of the state's largest businesses and the smaller ones who depend on them to lead the way to prosperity. Therefore, we hope you lend your support to the Brady-Matheson bill in addition to similar efforts in the Senate.

Congress can and should empower America's technology industry to harness its entrepreneurial spirit and keep moving forward by supporting H.R. 1834.

Sincerely,

Marlene Z. Asselta
President