MAJORITY MEMBERS:

GEORGE MILLER, CALIFORNIA, Chairman

DALE E. KILDEE, MICHIGAN, Vice Chairman
DONALD M. PAYNE, NEW JERSEY
ROBERT E. ANDREWS, NEW JERSEY
ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT, VIRGINIA
LYNN C. WOOLSEY, CALIFORNIA
RUBÉN HINOJOSA, TEXAS
CAROLYN McCARTHY, NEW YORK
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO
DAVID WU, OREGON
RUSH HOLT, NEW JERSEY
SUSAN A. DAVIS, CALIFORNIA
RAÚL M. GRIJALVA, ARIZONA
TIMOTHY H. BISHOP, NEW YORK
JOE SESTAK, PENNSYLVANIA
DAVID LOEBSACK, IOWA
MAZIE HIRONO, HAWAII
JASON ALTMIRE, PENNSYLVANIA
PHIL HARE, ILLINOIS
YVETTE D. CLARKE, NEW YORK
JOE COURTNEY, CONNECTICUT
CAROL SHEA-PORTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE
MARCIA L. FUDGE, OHIO
JARED POLIS, COLORADO
PAUL TONKO, NEW YORK
PEDRO R. PIERLUISI, PUERTO RICO
GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN,
N. MARIANA ISLANDS
DINA TITUS, NEVADA
JUDY CHU, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2181 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6100

MINORITY MEMBERS:

JOHN KLINE, MINNESOTA,
Senior Republican Member

THOMAS E. PETRI, WISCONSIN
HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON, CALIFORNIA
PETER HOEKSTRA, MICHIGAN
MICHAEL N. CASTLE, DELAWARE
MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA
VERNON J. EHLERS, MICHIGAN
JUDY BIGGERT, ILLINOIS
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA
JOE WILSON, SOUTH CAROLINA
CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, WASHINGTON
TOM PRICE, GEORGIA
ROB BISHOP, UTAH
BRETT GUTHRIE, KENTUCKY
BILL CASSIDY, LOUISIANA
TOM McCLINTOCK, CALIFORNIA
DUNCAN D. HUNTER, CALIFORNIA
DAVID P. ROE, TENNESSEE
GLENN THOMPSON, PENNSYLVANIA

November 20, 2009

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
Committee on Education and Labor
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Miller:

This February, when the national unemployment rate was 7.6 percent, Congressional Democrats passed President Obama's $787 billion stimulus plan. At that time, Administration officials promised the President's stimulus bill would prevent unemployment from rising above 8 percent. Instead, just nine months later, the Department of Labor reports that unemployment has jumped to 10.2 percent, and more than 2.8 million American jobs have been lost. Clearly something went wrong.

Contributing to the lack of confidence in the efficacy of the so-called stimulus measure is erroneous jobs data recently posted on the recovery.gov website. Despite the dramatic spike in the unemployment rate, the Administration asserts that stimulus spending "created or saved" 640,000 jobs. Unfortunately, many of these alleged jobs are attributed to Congressional Districts that do not exist.

Numerous media reports and lawmakers have debunked the Administration's claims – including Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey, who stated, "The inaccuracies on recovery.gov that have come to light are outrageous and the Administration owes itself, the Congress, and every American a commitment to work night and day to correct the ludicrous mistakes."

In the midst of this confusion, Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis has been conspicuous in her absence. With the first year of the Obama Administration drawing to a close, Secretary Solis has yet to appear at a single hearing before the House Education and Labor Committee. We therefore call on you to schedule Secretary Solis for immediate testimony before the committee to address the rising rate of unemployment, the erroneous jobs data attributed to the President's stimulus plan, and the Administration's plans to address these problems.

Majority Leader Hoyer announced earlier this week that Democrats plan to move another stimulus bill through Congress by year's end. Before another taxpayer dollar is spent, Congress must demand accountability for the failure of the $787 billion already appropriated under the Obama stimulus plan to stem the tide of rising unemployment.

Sincerely,

John Kline
Senior Republican Member

Thomas E. Petri
Member of Congress

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
Member of Congress

Peter Hoekstra
Member of Congress

Michael N. Castle
Member of Congress

Mark Souder
Member of Congress

Vernon J. Ehlers
Member of Congress

Judy Biggert
Member of Congress

Todd Russell Platts
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

Tom Price
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress

Bill Cassidy
Member of Congress

Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

Duncan D. Hunter
Member of Congress

David "Phil" Roe
Member of Congress

Glenn Thompson
Member of Congress