

## List of Contacts for State Sign-on Letters & Sample Letter

If your organization is interested in signing a statewide letter in support of a plan that stimulates the economy and helps people in need, please contact the person listed next to your state below. **Find a sample letter on page 2.**

**Is your state M.I.A? Interested in coordinating a sign-on letter in your state?  
Contact Maude Bauschard at [mbauschard@usaction.org](mailto:mbauschard@usaction.org)**

State	State Contact
<b>Arizona</b>	Linda Brown, Arizona Advocacy Network <a href="mailto:linda@azadvocacy.org">linda@azadvocacy.org</a> , 602-297-2500
<b>Iowa</b>	Charlie Wishman, Iowa Consumer Action Network <a href="mailto:cwishman@iowacan.org">cwishman@iowacan.org</a> , (515) 277-5077 Ext. 15
<b>Maryland</b>	Matthew Weisntein, Progressive Maryland <a href="mailto:matthew@progressivemaryland.org">matthew@progressivemaryland.org</a> , 443-418-4181
<b>New York</b>	Bob Cohen, Citizens Action of NY <a href="mailto:bcohen@citizenactionny.org">bcohen@citizenactionny.org</a> , 518-465-4600
<b>Ohio</b>	Cathy Johnston, Coalition on Homeless and Housing in Ohio <a href="mailto:cathyjohnston@cohhio.org">cathyjohnston@cohhio.org</a> , 614-280-1984
<b>Oregon</b>	Jo Ann Bowman, Oregon Action <a href="mailto:joann@oregonaction.org">joann@oregonaction.org</a> , 503-282-6588 x 3
<b>Rhode Island</b>	Ivette Luna, Ocean State Action <a href="mailto:ivette@oceanstateaction.org">ivette@oceanstateaction.org</a> , (401) 569-5459
<b>Washington</b>	Maru Villalpando, Washington Community Action Network <a href="mailto:maru@wacitizenaction.org">maru@wacitizenaction.org</a> , 206-389-0050 x106
<b>West Virginia</b>	Gary Zuckett, WV Citizen Action Group <a href="mailto:garyz@wcag.org">garyz@wcag.org</a> , 304-346-5891

## SAMPLE SIGN-ON LETTER

Dear Rep/Senator:

Without ever having shared in the benefits of the last recovery, millions of Americans and [STATE RESIDENTS] are now suffering new losses from the recession that is overtaking us. The economy has lost 296,000 private sector jobs in the past quarter; unemployment claims have surged upwards to a four-week average of 376,000; others are still in jobs, but with reduced hours. Their incomes lost ground through the period after the 2001 recession ended. And everything from the cost of food and gas are rising. Things are getting a lot worse.

The undersigned organizations strongly urge you to act quickly to enact initiatives designed to reverse the impact of the recession. At minimum, these initiatives ought to include expanded unemployment insurance benefits, Food Stamps, aid to states and localities to prevent harsh cuts in Medicaid, SCHIP, investments in our country's infrastructure that creates jobs and other critical services. ***We urge speedy enactment of such a package because respected economists agree that putting money in the hands of low to- moderate income people and preventing harsh cutbacks in state and local services are the most effective ways to boost the economy.***

- ***Expanded unemployment insurance benefits will help the 3.5 million people expected to exhaust their benefits by the end of this year to avoid serious hardships*** We believe that in order for unemployment benefits to work most effectively, funds should be increased to allow states and localities to deliver services and benefits to more of the jobless.
- ***A temporary increase in Food Stamp benefits is a quick way to stimulate the economy and provide relief to those in need.*** The recession has forced more struggling families onto the Food Stamp rolls, where they receive an average \$1 per person per meal. At the same time, food prices, especially for staples, is skyrocketing. Increased benefits can be swiftly directed to the electronic benefits cards used by Food Stamp recipients, and research confirms that virtually all of the funds will be spent within the month.
- ***Preventing state budget shortfalls from causing painful losses in services and jobs is an essential part of effective economic stimulus.*** A majority of states are now facing shortfalls totaling \$39 billion, a situation expected to worsen.
- ***Making investments in infrastructure projects that can be up and running within a year such as school repair and maintenance is a quick down payment on school infrastructure needs that will put people to work and help students to perform better.*** The Economic Policy Institute estimates that \$20 billion in such infrastructure repairs would create 280,000 jobs, and a much needed investment in improving education.

***Doing what is right is also the most effective way to rebuild our economy.*** Congress has been willing to act quickly to provide tax cuts for business and other supports for upper-income households. So far, Congress has been too slow to respond to genuine and growing hardship among low-income and vulnerable people. Please act now to enact initiatives that provide for a shared recovery.

If you or your staff has any questions on this matter, please contact \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ at [PHONE] or [EMAIL].

Sincerely,