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February 5, 2009

Mr. Izzy Bienes  
15125 US Highway 19 South  
Thomasville, Georgia 31792

Dear Mr. Bienes:

Thank you for contacting me to express your views on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. With the health of our nation's economy being such an important issue, I appreciate hearing your views and welcome the opportunity to respond.

While I share many of your concerns regarding the recovery package, I felt compelled to support the measure because of the urgent economic crisis facing our nation today - - the worst economic troubles we have seen since the 1930's. Government intervention is not something I take lightly; however, when our free market system no longer functions properly, where tens of thousands of average families face economic peril through no fault of their own, action must be taken to immediately restore economic stability by providing those resources necessary to jump-start our economy.

We know it will take time to turn this economy around and return to stability. However, I am confident that the recovery package, once approved, will help in making our economy much stronger than it would be had we not approved such legislation. In fact, it is estimated that the recovery plan will create approximately 2 - 3 million jobs nationally and 143,110 jobs in Georgia by the end of next year. Further, the measure is expected to reduce Georgia's unemployment rate by 1.8% over the next year as well.

To ensure that these job creation goals are met, the Obama Administration has pledged that 75 percent of the funding provided must filter into the economy within the next 18 months. Notably, no earmarks were allowed in the legislation and a significant portion of the funding available will be distributed through existing formulas to state and local governments.

February 5, 2009

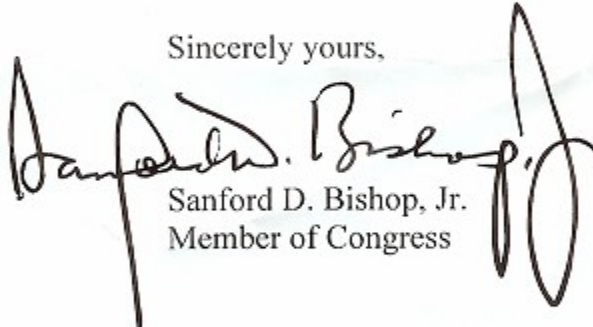
Mr. Izzy Bienes

Page 2

Again, thank you for taking your time to contact me about this important issue and I trust that you will continue to share your thoughts with me on other matters of concern. If we can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call on me.

With warmest regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sanford D. Bishop, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'S' and 'B'.

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress

SDB:mjr