

Legislative Issue Brief

Economic Stimulus Funds Support Buy American

The Issue: The economic downturn continues to have a critical impact on the state and Ohioans who are struggling to maintain or find jobs. Congress has enacted an economic recovery package that provides Ohio with significant funds for infrastructure rebuilding, green energy projects and manufacturing.

We owe it to the taxpayers and for the good of our country to ensure that these tax dollars are used to maximize the creation of Ohio jobs and to stimulate our communities right here at home; not somewhere else.

The facts demonstrate that we can no longer sit idly by while other countries subsidize its industry and create barriers for the entry of U.S. goods and products. Our \$820 billion trade deficit in goods with the rest of the world and the dismantling of our industrial sector is proof enough that economic stimulus should be for our middle class not the investor class. Let this economic stimulus money serve as a starting point for how we approach economic development in Ohio by putting Ohioans to work with good wages and benefits.

Action Needed: Support the provision in H.B. 1 that commits to using American goods, services and workers when public funds are allocated as part of the economic stimulus of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This measure would also make public any waivers to the Buy America provision and would enhance our ability to keep tax payer funded economic stimulus in Ohio and the United States.