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PRESS STATEMENT

U.S. Loses 539,000 Jobs in April, Including 149,000 in Manufacturing

Manufacturing Stimulus to Stop U.S. Economic Slide

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WASHINGTON, DC – The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported today that the United States lost 539,000 jobs in April. From April 2008 to April 2009, seasonally-adjusted U.S. nonfarm employment has fallen by 5.24 million jobs. The U.S. non-farm employment figure of 132.414 million is at its lowest point since January 2005 and even is lower than March 2001. Seasonally-adjusted U.S. private sector employment is faring worse. In April 2009, United States had fewer private sector jobs than it did in June 2004 and even December 1999.

U.S. manufacturing employment fell by 149,000 jobs in April, dropping to 12.152 million. The United States now has lost 488,000 thousand manufacturing jobs in 2009. U.S. manufacturing employment now is at its lowest level since June 1941. In the last decade, from April 1999 to April 2009, U.S. manufacturing employment has fallen by 30 percent, a loss of nearly 5.2 million good middle-class jobs.

American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC) Executive Director Auggie Tantillo said, "Recovering these job losses will be difficult unless America comes up with both a short-term plan to stimulate manufacturing and a long-term plan to ensure that even more of those jobs do not move offshore. Absent that, America cannot have a strong long-term economic recovery."

Noting that since January 2009 China has announced stimulus plans for ten of its manufacturing sectors including, vehicles, steel, shipbuilding, machinery, textiles, electronics, and information technology, Tantillo added, "We are deeply concerned that the United States is not changing its failed economic policy with respect to manufacturing. By neglecting manufacturing, the United States will have one less engine to fuel its economic recovery and is in danger of again traveling down the same policy road responsible for America's present economic failures."

"America is facing its greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression because it thought it could substitute debt to mask a shortfall in U.S. production. America cannot borrow its way out of this crisis; it must manufacture its way out to keep its standard of living," Tantillo stressed.

"The quickest way to boost U.S. manufacturing is to start producing here at home more of what Americans buy and consume every day. Producing more cars, trucks, computers, software, electronics, pharmaceuticals, furniture, and textiles would create the millions of middle-class jobs needed to get America out of its economic doldrums," Tantillo continued.

"To boost production, America must reinvest in manufacturing and revive weakened supply chains. Far more research and development must be kept onshore and emerging high-tech and green-energy industries must be nurtured and encouraged to remain in the United States," Tantillo elaborated.

"The U.S. government will spend trillions of taxpayer dollars to bail out the very Wall Street interests responsible for driving U.S. manufacturing offshore. Meanwhile, key policymakers and opinion leaders remain oblivious to the fact that America has run a cumulative \$5 trillion trade deficit since 2001 that has destroyed millions of middle-class jobs," Tantillo concluded.

To stop the job losses and the bailouts, fixing America's broken trade and manufacturing policies must be the top priority for President Obama and the Congress. Smart actions to boost production and dramatically reduce the trade deficit will create millions of new jobs, restore healthy growth, and strengthen national security. This will require investing in America, creating incentives for corporations to keep jobs here and to bring others home, and reducing reliance on foreign sources for energy, critical inputs, capital, and even food. To accomplish this, America must:

- Eliminate tax disadvantages that undermine the competitiveness of U.S. producers at home and abroad, or that discourage investment in America. Specifically, America must negate the \$474 billion disadvantage to U.S. producers of goods and services caused by foreign border-adjusted taxes, such as value-added (VAT) taxes.
- Combat the illegal, mercantilist practice of prolonged currency misalignment by quickly enacting legislation to make it actionable under U.S. trade law.
- Aggressively enforce U.S. laws to halt foreign illegal trade activities such as dumping, subsidization, and intellectual property theft. In addition, U.S. policy must ensure that all goods sold here meet U.S. food and product safety standards.
- Implement a comprehensive strategy to reduce U.S. dependence on imported energy.
- Ensure that the "Buy American" provisions in the recently passed stimulus are vigorously enforced.
- Promote American interests by requiring full reciprocity, fairness, and transparency in all U.S. trade agreements, including in such areas as labor and environmental standards.

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