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COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS

**TIM RYAN**  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
17TH DISTRICT, OHIO

May 21, 2009

President Barack Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear President Obama,

Please find attached a letter from the Coalition for a Prosperous America (CPA) advocating for an expansion of the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board (PERAB) to include representatives of domestic producers of food and manufactured goods. I would like to express my support for increasing the size of PERAB to include these members.

By increasing the PERAB to include members of the domestic and manufactured goods organizations, you will hear more perspectives about the issues these industries are facing. Additionally, by expanding the board, you will encourage more policy innovation and gain broader support for new economic and trade policies.

Thank you for your consideration and important work on this issue. If you have any questions in the future, please feel free to contact Ryan Keating of my staff at 202-225-5261.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Ryan".

Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress

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*Chief Co-Chair, and  
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Revcore Copper Products  
Ronie, NY

**Joe Logan**  
*Co-Chair for Agriculture*  
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**Bob Baugh**  
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**David Anderson, Director**  
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**Bill Bullard, Director**  
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**Jack Davis, Director**  
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**John Dittrich, Director**  
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**Rob Dumont, Director**  
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**Dave Frengel, Director**  
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**John Hansen, Director**  
National Farmers Union  
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**Robert Johns, Director**  
Remar Consulting  
Granite Falls, NC

**Nelson Hoffman, Director**  
Aspen, CO

**Pam Potthoff, Director**  
WIFE  
Trenton, NE

February 19, 2009

President Barack Obama  
White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Re: President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board

Dear Mr. President:

The Coalition for a Prosperous America represents the common interests of 2.7 million citizens through our association, individual, company and union members. For two years, farmers, ranchers, manufacturers and organized labor have worked together in CPA towards a national trade strategy to boost the American economy both in the near and in the longer term.

We appreciate your courage and ambition in addressing issues of prime concern to us in the face of the current recession. While we applaud your initial steps, we are deeply concerned that the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board (PERAB) is not sufficiently representative of domestic producers of food and manufactured goods. Without a better balance, the administration runs the danger of receiving advice that is dangerously tilted in favor of multinational interests who are in fact partly responsible for the erosion of America's ability to invest, produce and export.

Indeed, your February 6, 2009 Executive Order establishing the PERAB states, in Section 1:

"The overall membership of the PERAB shall reflect a diverse set of perspectives from across the country and from various sectors of the economy."

We do not argue that the currently represented interests should be denied a seat at the table. However, it would be a serious oversight to exclude adequate representation of America's family farms, ranches, and small and medium-sized manufacturers. They and the service industries that depend on them represent the bulk of the American economy. If we are to expand production, reduce our trade deficit and decrease our dependence on foreign capital, domestically-based producers are the ones who will have to provide a major share of the

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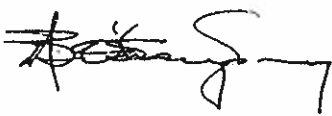
growth.

The transparent pursuit of transformative change depends in large measure on effective access for all parties to the decision-making process. For too long, the government has listened almost exclusively to big business, university professors and financial interests. A central reason for the existence of the CPA is to add the interests of domestic producers of food, goods and services.

Without denying the legitimate role of others, we respectfully request that you add enough members to the PERAB to ensure that those who produce primarily and even exclusively in America be adequately represented.

We believe the result of an expanded and better balanced PERAB will be more useful for policy innovation and will enjoy broader political support towards fundamental change in our trade and economic policies. We stand ready to work with the administration to achieve the sort of change on which our country's future depends and hope we will be offered the opportunity to contribute to the work of the PERAB.

Respectfully,



Brian O'Shaughnessy  
Chief Co-Chair,  
Manufacturing Co-Chair



Joe Logan  
Agriculture Co-Chair



Robert Baugh  
Labor Co-Chair