COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
HARRISBURG

THE GOVERNOR

March 4, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As we face these times of unprecedented challenges that require unprecedented cooperation and partnership, I believe that your leadership in securing the passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will be viewed as one of the most important achievements in our nation's history.

The financial support that will be made available to our states through this act is absolutely essential and invaluable to our efforts to regain economic stability.

While I take no pleasure in the extraordinary circumstances that require such extreme measures, I am nonetheless pleased to submit this letter on behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to satisfy the formal certification requirement articulated in Section 1607(a) of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. **Accordingly, I am requesting to use the funds provided by this Act. I will use the funds to create jobs and promote economic growth in the Commonwealth.**

Be assured that Pennsylvania does not accept the stimulus aid offered by the federal government lightly. As has been the practice throughout my administration, the highest standards of accountability and transparency will apply to our acceptance and use of these funds. We are already working diligently to establish measurable goals and policies to enable us to meet the challenges of the new law.

It is my intention to maximize the degree to which every aspect of expenditure is benefiting Pennsylvania companies and residents in order to put Pennsylvanians to work, cut greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption and make sure that real growth occurs in the Commonwealth's health care, technology and green sectors. We will ensure that our citizens keep their jobs, get hired in newly created, sustainable jobs that produce long-term value and, where necessary, access immediate relief funds.

The infrastructure funds provided in the Recovery Act will ensure that investments to upgrade our roads and bridges will provide not only for badly needed improvements, but will also create good-paying jobs and reduce unemployment.

One of my proudest accomplishments as Governor is the significant increases in education funding that we were able to put in place during my administration. The provisions in the final version of the Recovery Act that added greater flexibility regarding the use of the stimulus funds for education will ensure that Pennsylvania can continue to increase our investment in our greatest asset, our children, as we work to balance our budget.

You face enormous challenges leading our nation during this period of global uncertainty. We all hope that the positive impact of these investments will be immeasurable. I wish you the greatest possible success and pledge to do everything in my power to help.

Sincerely,

Edward G Rendell

Edward G. Rendell
Governor