Madam Speaker,

Last week American companies announced that they would be laying-off more than 102,000 employees in the coming weeks.

The economic situation is clearly getting worse, and Congressional Democrats are taking steps to get people back to work and to save jobs that, without action, might be lost in the months ahead.

Last week, this House passed legislation that will save and create 3 to 4 million jobs. We will create nearly a half a million jobs by investing in clean energy. Our economic package also puts nearly 400,000 people to work repairing crumbling roads, bridges and schools.

Madam Speaker, economists told us that we needed to act boldly and swiftly to address our nation's troubling economy. This week, the Senate must pass the Economic Recovery Package so that we can begin the long process of turning this economy around. Failure to act, as some on the other side of the aisle seem more than happy to do, is simply not an option.