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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

December 12, 2011

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Mr. Timothy W. Burga  
President  
Ohio AFL-CIO  
395 E. Broad Street, Suite 300  
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Tim:

Thank you for your December 8 letter on the need for action by President Obama and Congress to extend federal Unemployment Insurance (UI) protections, which are currently set to expire on December 31, 2011.

I share your belief that an extension of unemployment insurance is needed to help Ohioans and all Americans struggling in the current economy. At my direction, the House of Representatives will vote this week on legislation, the Middle Class Tax Relief & Job Creation Act (H.R. 3630), which would both extend unemployment insurance and the current payroll tax cut for middle class workers through the end of 2012. Specifically, H.R. 3630 would extend the federal Emergency Unemployment Compensation program and other related federal unemployment insurance measures for 13 months, through the end of January 2013. As with President Obama's own plan, the bill will extend unemployment insurance while making important reforms in the program to help ensure unemployment services are focused on helping Americans get back to work.

I and other House Republican leaders signaled back in September that we were ready to work with President Obama to enact these important components of his jobs plan to assist Americans struggling in the current economy, and it is our intention to make good on that pledge this week by bringing H.R. 3630 to a vote.

You also may be pleased to know that because job creation is the top priority for the American people, H.R. 3630 includes important provisions supporting construction of the Keystone XL energy pipeline, a project with bipartisan support in Congress that will help to create tens of thousands of new American jobs. In a recent op-ed, Mark H. Ayers, president of the AFL-CIO Building & Construction Trades Department, noted the importance of the Keystone energy project, saying:

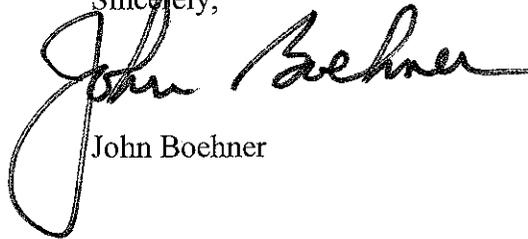
*"For America's skilled craft construction professionals, any discussion of the Keystone XL project begins and ends with one word: JOBS. Today, roughly 14% of the American*

*construction workforce is unemployed -- which is significantly higher than the overall national unemployment rate of 9%. Throughout America's Heartland, the Keystone Pipeline represents the prospect for 20,000 immediate jobs, and as many as 500,000 indirect jobs via a strong economic multiplier effect. . . [It is America's workers who are clamoring for the expedited approval of this important project. As President Obama has rightfully declared when it comes to the creation of jobs, 'WE CAN'T WAIT.'"]*

As the year winds to a close and with the holidays upon us, an opportunity exists for President Obama and Members of Congress to find common ground and enact legislation that will extend unemployment insurance and the payroll tax cut for middle class Americans while paving the way for the creation of thousands of desperately needed new jobs in our country. H.R. 3630 offers us this opportunity. I invite you to read the text of the Middle Class Relief & Job Creation Act, which is publicly available [online](#), and to consider joining me in calling for prompt action in the United States Senate once H.R. 3630 is approved by the House.

Tim, I wish you and your family the very best this holiday season, and appreciate the opportunity to let you know about this important legislation that will help to bring immediate relief and the prospect of new jobs to thousands of our fellow citizens if enacted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Boehner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John Boehner