



February 4, 2009

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

**OFFICE**  
615 Boardman Street  
Sheffield, MA 01257

**PHONE**  
413.854.2580

**FAX**  
413.895.5355

**EMAIL**  
cpa@prosperousamerica.org

**WEB**  
www.prosperousamerica.org  
www.tradereform.org

**Brian O'Shaughnessy**  
*Chief Co-Chair, and  
Co-Chair for Manufacturing*  
Revere Copper Products  
Rome, NY

**Joe Logan**  
*Co-Chair for Agriculture*  
Ohio Farmers Union  
Kinsman, OH

**Bob Baugh**  
*Co-Chair for Labor*  
AFL-CIO Industrial Union Council  
Washington, DC

**Fred Stokes**  
*Chairman Emeritus*  
Org'n for Competitive Markets  
Porterville, MS

**David Anderson, Director**  
Colorado Springs Mfg Task Force  
Colorado Springs, CO

**Charles Blum, Director**  
IAS Group  
Washington, DC

**Bill Bullard, Director**  
R-CALF USA  
Billings, MT

**Jack Davis, Director**  
I Squared R Element Co.  
Akron, NY

**John Dittrich, Director**  
American Corn Growers Assn  
Tilden, NE

**Rob Dumont, Director**  
TMTA  
Farmington Hills, MI

**Dave Frengel, Director**  
Penn United Technologies  
Saxonburg, PA

**John Hansen, Director**  
National Farmers Union  
Lincoln, NE

**Robert Johns, Director**  
Romar Consulting  
Granite Falls, NC

**Nelson Hoffman, Director**  
Aspen, CO

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

Re: Buy American Provisions: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Dear President Obama:

The Coalition for a Prosperous America represents over 2.7 million citizens through its agricultural, manufacturing and organized labor members. We advocate the reform of trade policy to promote the interests of those who produce in the United States as a major step towards fixing our economy.

We write to urge you to support inclusion of the provision in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act requiring that U.S. taxpayer money on projects be spent on goods produced in the United States to the maximum extent possible. There is considerable room to expand the Buy American provisions without violating our obligations under international law or agreements. The Senate bill S. 366 does this.

During the campaign, you advocated Buy American and criticized John McCain for not doing so. The American public rightly rejected your opponents ideological position during the campaign and, based upon polling numbers, continues to do so. Indeed, polls show that 86% of citizens support the Buy American provision.

The WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (AGP) establishes some agreed limitations on domestic preferences. Europe, Canada and other signatory countries have rules that prefer domestic production in iron, steel, transportation, telecommunications, construction and other sectors. We are unsure why those countries complain about the Senate proposal to do the same.

China, Russia and India are not parties to the AGP. We have no obligation to them and they have no rights with respect to us under any international agreement. If they chose to initiate any retaliatory trade action, they would clearly be in the wrong. We would be the aggrieved party.

Our trade deficit is a tremendous contributor to the lack of aggregate demand in our economy. Each additional dollar of imports must be financed with the equivalent borrowing from abroad. The U.S. rate of consumption versus production has become dangerously unbalanced. Credit card debt and home equity cannot replace income from employment. The plain fact is that we must produce more and borrow less. U.S. taxpayer money should be spent to benefit U.S. taxpayers. This principle is not controversial throughout the country, though it may be inside the beltway.

We urge you to maintain your campaign promises to demonstrate to the world your intention to stand up for legitimate American rights while respecting our international obligations. (See attached transcript of campaign radio advertisement and Obama campaign sticker). Hard working Americans want a reason to believe that their government is on their side. Please support the Buy American provision in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Respectfully,



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



Joe Logan  
Agriculture Co-Chair



Robert Baugh  
Labor Co-Chair

## Radio Advertisement for Barack Obama

(Motors revving)

Announcer: Listen to John McCain speaking to motorcycle enthusiasts in Sturgis, South Dakota, on Tuesday.

McCain: Not long ago a couple of hundred thousand Berliners made a lot of noise for my opponent. I'll take the roar of 50,000 Harleys any day...

Announcer: But when it comes to his record, American-made motorcycles like Harleys don't matter to John McCain. Back in Washington, McCain opposed the requirement that the government buy American-made motorcycles. And he said all buy-American provisions were quote "disgraceful." Surprised? You shouldn't be. This is the same John McCain who supported billions in tax breaks for companies who ship American jobs overseas.

(More motors revving)

Announcer: It's time to hear the roar of the strong American economy again -- and stop John McCain from shipping our jobs overseas.

Obama: I'm Barack Obama, candidate for president, and I approved this message. Paid for by Obama for America.

