



Office of the President

February 4, 2009

Senator Jeanne Shaheen
G55 Dirksen Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

On behalf of the nation's two- and four-year, public and non-profit private colleges and universities, we write in support of the amendment you have offered to H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This amendment would set the amount for infrastructure renovation and repair projects at institutions of higher education at the same level as provided for in the House bill, immediately creating jobs in the short term, and strengthening America's economic future by improving academic capacity.

This funding is truly stimulative in nature. Public and private colleges and universities undertake a substantial number of infrastructure projects for academic facilities every year. Because of the high cost of borrowing and sharp declines in state and institutional budgets, many of these projects have been delayed or canceled. As well, a number of colleges have halted shovel-ready projects and frozen staff salaries in order to ensure that they will have more aid for needy families. While this is a prudent strategy, it can have a negative economic impact on local communities, where colleges are often the largest employer.

With more than 4,500 campuses across the country, higher education is a strong presence in communities—urban and rural, large and small. These projects have been identified, developed, and are the very definition of “shovel-ready.” If provided funding, such an investment would immediately create jobs, boost local and regional economies, and build a lasting improvement to academic capacity at our nation's colleges and universities.

In addition to creating an estimated 71,000 new jobs, this amendment would also address the disparities in funding among states identified by the Congressional Research Service in its analysis of the current Senate funding level.

We thank you for proposing this amendment and offer our strong support for its inclusion in the final stimulus package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly C. Broad".

Molly Corbett Broad
President

MCB\ksm

Re: Shaheen Amendment

February 4, 2009

Page 2

On behalf of:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers

American Association of Community Colleges

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

American Council on Education

Association of American Universities

Council of Graduate Schools

EDUCAUSE

National Association of College and University Business Officers

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

United Negro College Fund