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**Southeast Kentucky
Chamber of Commerce**
— The Power To Be Heard —

May 8, 2012

The Honorable Hal Rogers
2400 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rogers,

On behalf of the Southeast Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and the employers and businesses in our communities that we represent, we urge you to prevent the closure of Job Corps centers. The Job Corps program is vital to our communities, and the loss of Job Corps centers would be devastating to our economies, both at a local and national level.

Job Corps works for employers. No national career preparation program is more closely allied with local and regional employers and their needs. These employers actively work with their local centers to customize training to meet their needs in 100 different trades in 11 major industries. No other program offers local employers a comparable opportunity to shape curricula in so many occupations. Small businesses in our communities work closely with their Job Corps centers because these centers reliably produce skilled and responsible workers who can contribute to a small business' growth.

Job Corps also works for our local communities. Every dollar invested in the program results in about \$2 in economic activity in the local economy because of the purchasing of goods and services in the community. As a result, the average Job Corps center directly and indirectly supports 228 local jobs. Nationally, the 125 Job Corps centers support 30,000 jobs, the vast majority of which are in the private sector.

Most importantly, Job Corps works. It is our nation's most effective career preparation program for economically disadvantaged youth ages 16 to 24 who might otherwise cost our communities and taxpayers billions of dollars over the course of their lifetimes. Job Corps reverses that drain, because 85 percent of graduates secure a job, enter higher education, or enlist in the military.

To ensure our country has continued economic growth and a well-trained workforce, our nation has a responsibility to invest in smart programs that have a proven track record of success. Job Corps is one of the most worthwhile investments toward these goals. For the sake of the youth the program services, the employers who hire them, and our communities, Congress should prevent the closure of any of the 125 Job Corps centers across the country. Again, on behalf of the Southeast Kentucky Chamber Board of Directors and our over 500 member businesses, we urge you to keep the doors open for the Job Corps centers across the country.

Most Sincerely,

Brad N. Hall
President & CEO

Floyd County Chamber of Commerce
Prestonsburg, KY 41653
May 7, 2012

The Honorable Harold Rogers
2406 Rayburn Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rogers

On behalf of the employers and businesses in Floyd County, the Chamber of Commerce urges you to prevent the closure of Job Corps centers. The Job Corps program is vital to our communities and the loss of Job Corps centers would be devastating to our economies, both at a local and a national level.

The Carl D. Perkins Job Corps works many hours for our community committing to activities, such as planting flowers and trees, working on cleanup projects with the area Pride organization, renovating local facilities, and supporting the Special Olympics and Sr. Olympics. These endless hours given by students and staff demonstrate the Center's commitment to the community and to being an active agent in the community. No national career preparation program is more closely aligned with local and regional employers and their needs than the Job Corps. These employers actively work with their local centers to customize training to meet their needs in 100 different trades in 11 major industries. No other program offers local employers a comparable opportunity to shape curricula in so many occupations. Small businesses in our communities work closely with their Job Corps Centers because these Centers reliably produce skilled and responsible workers who can contribute to a small business' growth.

Job Corps also provides a monetary impact to our local communities. Every dollar invested in the program results in about \$2 in economic activity in the local economy because of the purchasing of goods and services in the community. As a result, the average Job Corps center directly and indirectly supports 228 local jobs. Nationally the 125 Job Corps centers support 30,000 jobs the vast majority of which are in the private sector.

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To ensure our country has continued economic growth and a well-trained workforce, our nation has a responsibility to invest in smart programs that have a proven track record of success. Job Corps is one of the most worthwhile investments toward these goals. For the sake of the youth, the program services, the employers who hire the students, and our communities, Congress should prevent the closure of any of the 125 Job Corps centers across the country.

Sincerely



Nancy B. Johnson, Chair
Floyd County Chamber of Commerce



HAND IN HAND MINISTRIES

May 8, 2012

Honorable **Harold Rogers**
U.S. House of Representatives
2400 RAYBURN BUILDING House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear CONGRESSMAN ROGERS:

As the Director of HAND IN HAND MINISTRIES, THE AUXIER CENTER, I want to bring to your attention the impact the PRESTONSBURG Job Corps Center has on THE AUXIER CENTER. I have been able to rely on PRESTONSBURG Job Corps Center to provide some amazing students to learn and be of help to us. PRESTONSBURG Job Corps Center has consistently proven that they are cultivating highly skilled, highly dedicated students who are excited, prepared, and ready to learn more about their area of interests and work.

As an employer, I know the importance of having interns and employees that have a strong interest in enhancing their skills. PRESTONSBURG Job Corps always sends students that have a thirst for knowledge, work hard, and therefore, are able to be a contributor to HAND IN HAND MINISTRIES. Through our partnership with PRESTONSBURG Job Corps, I have seen well-equipped interns, whose work ethic and expertise is beyond many of their fellow employees. HAND IN HAND MINISTRIES, THE AUXIER CENTER has worked with 10 WORK BASED LEARNING STUDENTS IN THE 2012 YEAR ALONE.

I urge you give your full support for a continued strong investment for Job Corps in the FY 2012 budget. I also encourage you to consider joining the bi-partisan Friends of Job Corps Congressional Caucus, co-chaired by Representatives Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Henry Cuellar (D-TX).

If you were to have any questions about Job Corps, including how to join the Friends of Job Corps Congressional Caucus, please contact the NJCA at (202) 216-0217.

Sincerely,

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A program of Hand in Hand Ministries
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