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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

October 11, 2011

The Honorable John Kerry  
United States Senate  
218 Russell Building  
Second Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kerry:

I write to urge you to support President Obama's American Jobs Act, and to ask that you advocate for its swift consideration and passage in Congress.

While our economy may have emerged from a downturn, growth has lagged and many believe we are at risk of a double dip recession. To shore up our economic growth and to strengthen and rebuild our economy, the President has proposed the American Jobs Act, which I strongly support.

My Administration remains focused on creating jobs, closing educational achievement gaps, and curbing youth violence. Further, I have committed to meeting these objectives by budgeting responsibly. The American Jobs Act dovetails with each of these priorities and, importantly, does so responsibly: the Act is fully paid for.

The American Jobs Act promotes job growth in devoting funding to several areas where infrastructure investment is critically needed. Under the Act, Massachusetts would receive more than \$1

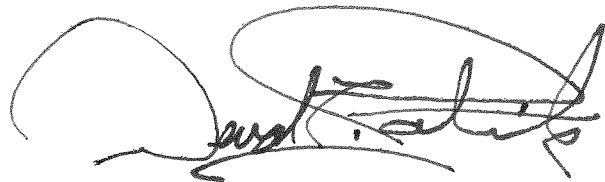
billion to speed highway and transit improvements, modernize hundreds of public schools through repair and renovation projects, and rehabilitate and refurbish hundreds of vacant and foreclosed homes and businesses. Together, these investments would support almost 16,500 jobs in the Commonwealth.

In line with my focus on closing the achievement gap and stemming youth violence, the Act provides Massachusetts with funding sufficient to create or save more than 6,000 teacher and first responder jobs in the Commonwealth. In addition, the Act's Pathways Back to Work Fund could help create employment opportunities for upwards of 9,000 youths in Massachusetts.

The plan also provides a tax cut of around \$1,800 for the typical Massachusetts household. And finally, the Act would extend unemployment insurance benefits because, while our economic outlook might have improved since 2009, we still have a long way to go. In the first six weeks of 2012, this provision would prevent 40,000 to 50,000 Massachusetts residents -- who have lost their jobs and have been unable to find work -- from losing benefits.

Simply put, the American Jobs Act makes the kind of investments we need to get our economy back on track. It will create thousands of jobs for Massachusetts residents, and importantly, it makes smart choices to ensure that our recovery will be swift, strong, and lasting. I strongly support the American Jobs Act and urge you to support its quick passage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Walcott". The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.