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ONE AGENDA

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INTERNATIONAL UNION OF PAINTERS AND ALLIED TRADES, AFL-CIO

July 12, 2012

Honorable Dean Heller
Lloyd George Federal Building
333 Las Vegas Blvd, Suite 8203
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Dear Senator Heller,

Over the last decade, Americans have lost more manufacturing jobs than during the Great Depression. The closure of more than 50,000 manufacturing facilities, the loss of nearly 6 million manufacturing jobs and chronic trade deficits are all troubling signs of our nation's diminished industrial and innovative capability.

In Nevada, we have lost thousands of jobs over the last few decades. If we can close the loopholes that provide tax incentives for companies outsourcing jobs, then Nevada can keep more working families in their homes, more kids in school and attract more manufacturing jobs than ever before.

However, it is not just manufacturing jobs that are being shipped overseas—our service economy is suffering a similar fate. Workers from call centers, professional services and aircraft maintenance as well as computer engineers, administrative services, health care and more have seen their jobs leave. A 2009 study by economists Alan Blinder and Alan Krueger estimated one in four U.S. jobs is vulnerable to off-shoring. Despite this growing trend, outsourcing is not inevitable, nor is it unstoppable. Many countries have strategies to keep good jobs at home and back it up by aligning their trade, tax, training and investment policies.

Unfortunately, in the United States, our economic policies are stacked in favor of corporations and the wealthiest 1% rather than that of working families of Nevada. To ensure we reward companies for doing the right thing for our workers and for our economy, we need to put a stop to the policies that encourage businesses to ship good jobs overseas. For example, corporations can defer paying any taxes at all when they move production overseas— and we need to end this tax incentive for off-shoring. We also need to pass existing legislation to address currency manipulation by foreign governments, which is another key driver of off-shoring.

Honorable Heller
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Congress should pass the United States Call Center Worker and Consumer Protection Act. And we must also push for fair trade deals that create good jobs and benefit workers rather than just multinational corporations.

In July, the Senate will have an opportunity to address one particular tax policy that is outrageous. The tax code currently allows companies moving operations overseas to deduct their moving expenses—and reduce their taxes in the United States as a result. We *give* tax breaks for companies that offshore jobs while millions of families in the United States struggle to find work.

The Bring Jobs Home Act can help change this by eliminating the tax deduction for moving expenses while rewarding businesses that bring good jobs *back* to the United States with a tax credit. By supporting the Bring Jobs Home Act (S. 2884), you can take a good first step toward a more comprehensive plan to stop incentives for off-shoring, re-orient our economic policies to make the economy work for working people and reform our dangerously lopsided tax policies.

We face choices about the environment and the management of nonrenewable natural resources. We face decisions about the kinds of laws and policies that shape our economy, education and health care. These choices come down to a single question: What is your vision? Do you want an economy that invests in working families, or one that multiplies profits for CEOs? Do you want to keep our competitive edge and have the best-trained workers, or do you want to fall behind as companies move overseas and leave millions of Americans unemployed?

Senator Heller, please join us in supporting the Bring Jobs Home Act in the Senate.

Nothing is more American than creating an economy that works for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. Williams". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James A. Williams
General President