

Support Legislation to Bolster the Home Furnishings and Improvements Market

Become an original cosponsor of the Home Improvements Revitalize the Economy (HIRE) Act of 2009

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to urge you to join me as an original cosponsor of the Home Improvements Revitalize the Economy (HIRE) Act of 2009, which would provide consumer and commercial tax incentives for the mass scale purchase of home furnishing and building products.

The home furnishings and improvements market is valued at \$375 billion. This market lost \$67 billion in direct economic value from 2007 to 2008 and is expected to lose another \$74 billion from 2008 to 2009. Last year, 273,000 American jobs were lost in this sector and 299,000 jobs are expected to be lost in 2009. Now is the time to support legislation to bolster this market by providing short term targeted tax incentives for home furnishings and improvements in order to put Americans back to work making American products in American factories.

The bill would provide consumer and commercial tax incentives for the mass scale purchase of home furnishing and building products. The HIRE Act would re-attract many households into the market that would otherwise forgo spending in 2009 and 2010, stimulating the manufacturing market for these products, improving the flow of capital, helping low and middle-income taxpayers, and directly protecting American manufacturing, retail and contractor jobs. The American Home Furnishings and Building Products Coalition expects the bill to create or save (1) 352,000 jobs in retail, manufacturing and contractor services, generating \$18 billion in after tax income, and (2) \$58-\$76 billion increase in home valuations. The HIRE Act would create a tax deduction of up to \$2,000 for purchasing qualified building products and home furnishings, a tax credit equal to 20 percent of the qualified buildings products and home furnishings expenditures made by the taxpayer, and a tax credit for the purchase of building products and home furnishings for resale equal to 10 percent of the cost paid or incurred by the taxpayer up to a maximum of \$10,000.

In addition, the bill answers President Obama's call to build a green economy by doubling the tax incentives for the purchase of building products and home furnishings which meet LEED, Green Globes, Energy Star, and any other widely recognized (or third-party verified) national or industry environmental standards having a positive life cycle analysis.

For more information or to add your name as a cosponsor, please contact Scott Goldstein at 202-225-1605 or scott.goldstein@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

Hank Johnson
Member of Congress

Organizations supporting the HIRE Act of 2009

Adhesive and Sealant Council, *American Home Furnishings Alliance*, Carpet and Rug Institute, *Hardwood Federation*, International Sleep Products Association, *Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association*, National Home Furnishings Association, *National Paint and Coatings Association*, Natural Wood Flooring Association, *Polyurethane Foam Association*, Resilient Floor Covering Institute, *Wood Floor Covering Association*.