



JOHN A. PÉREZ
SPEAKER OF THE ASSEMBLY

April 12, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510.

Dear Senator Reid:

As you know, there have been some encouraging signs that the worst of the Great Recession is behind us and that the economy is beginning to make progress on several fronts.

Of course, there are still many steps we need to take at both the federal and state levels to spur growth and ensure recovery. One such important step remains before you: passage of the HOMESTAR Program legislation proposed by President Obama.

In his State of the Union address the President outlined how HOMESTAR would revitalize the construction industry, help small businesses, and support manufacturing – all of which have tremendous job creating potential. He also shared how HOMESTAR can reduce energy consumption, lower energy bills and lessen our dependence on fossil fuels and foreign oil. The multi-billion dollar model of rebates, incentives and financing contained in the HOMESTAR legislation has a broad base of support from business, labor and the environmental community, and offers a rare win-win-win situation.

The HOMESTAR program compliments billions of dollars in energy efficiency efforts already underway here in California. We are also moving forward to ensure our state is properly positioned to implement the HOMESTAR program as soon as it becomes law. In fact, I am pleased to share with you that my Assembly Bill 2614 is moving through the legislative process with strong bipartisan support.

AB 2614 directs the California Energy Commission to develop and implement the HOMESTAR program here in California. AB 2614 coordinates the participation of the requisite stakeholders at every level, provides accountability to ensure savings are realized and maximizes the benefits that can be leveraged through the tools HOMESTAR provides.

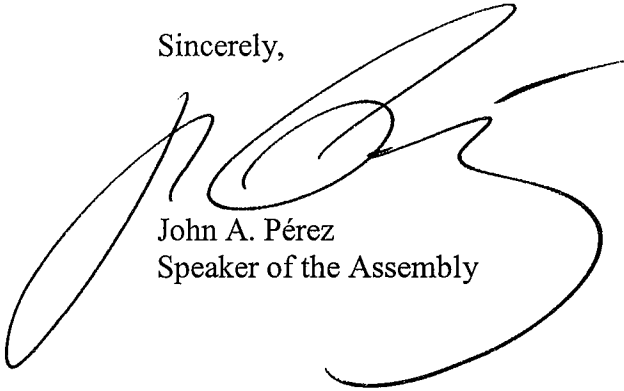
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I am excited about the economic benefits California and other states can receive through HOMESTAR and I am committed to ensuring our state gets out of the gate quickly in implementing the program.

All that depends, of course, on Congress finally passing the HOMESTAR legislation and sending it to the President for his signature. California and all 50 states are looking to your leadership to make this happen as quickly as possible.

On behalf of the people of California, more than 2.2 million of whom are unemployed, I respectfully urge you to ensure swift passage of the HOMESTAR legislation in the Senate. The "green shoots" we are seeing in a potential recovery can definitely use the boost this vital green legislation will provide.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP', is written over the typed name and title.

John A. Pérez
Speaker of the Assembly

cc: Honorable Barbara Boxer
Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Honorable Jeff Bingaman
Honorable Mark Warner
Honorable Lindsey Graham