LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF WISCONSIN EDUCATION FUND

122 State Street, #201A
Madison, WI 53703-2500

Phone: (608) 256-0827
Fax: (608) 256-1761

http://www.lwvwi.org
lwvwisconsin@lwvwi.org

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Dear Honorable Wisconsin Members of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House:

You are on the verge of spending over $800 billion to stimulate the economy.

The League of Women Voters of Wisconsin urges you to make full use of the economic recovery stimulus package to **support solid proposals that lay the groundwork for long-term sustainability**. The only projects to fund must invest in America's future – both the current economic challenges as well as long-term infrastructure needs for essential public services, education and health.

1. **Infrastructure for Essential Public Services** – Now is the best opportunity to promote a clean environment and good jobs that turn around our economy, by investing in energy efficiency and affordability in such essential public services as transportation, public sewer and water, and education. As you consider many proposals for the final stimulus package, we encourage you to support the following principles: (a) "fix it first" investments to repair transportation, water and sewer infrastructure; (b) maintenance, repair and new capital for public transportation – public transit and intercity rail systems to move people and goods; (c) support for transit system operating expenses; and (d) energy efficiency retrofits of public buildings to ensure the affordability of education and other essential government services. These wise investments reduce our dependence on oil, decrease greenhouse gas pollution, support green jobs and provide basic services and mobility options for our public-transit dependent populations, those who are low-income, elderly or disabled.

2. **Education and Health –** Invest in projects that provide federal funding for federally mandated school programs, and such health services as family planning and computerized medical records. Support projects that emphasize accessibility, affordability and prevention, by providing higher employment, controlling the cost of health care premiums, and increasing access to quality health care with cost effective programs.

3. **Green Jobs Training and Energy Efficiency** – Federal investments must ensure green jobs training sufficient to build the clean energy economy we need. Energy efficiency projects on a massive scale are the fastest and most sustainable investments to get workers into productive 21st century jobs, spur private investment in efficient manufacturing and advanced technologies and diminish global warming pollution.

The League also urges you to ensure accountability of all stimulus package expenditures by including the highest standards for open, transparent, inclusive and effective administration of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan.

Sincerely,

Melanie G. Ramey

Melanie G. Ramey
President

COMMUNITY SHARES OF WISCONSIN