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September 2, 2011

Mr. Stephen E. Nowlan
Center for America
250 Willow Springs Drive
Roswell, GA 30075

Dear Mr. Nowlan:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, I write to express support for the Center for America's *10 X 20 Pledge* to add 10 million new skilled workers in the United States by 2020.

The PA Chamber is the largest broad-based advocacy association in the Commonwealth. We represent business of all sizes ranging from Fortune 100 companies to sole proprietors crossing all industry sectors. Our members know that in order to compete in a national and increasingly global economy it is necessary to maintain a well-trained, superior workforce. Workers must be able to adapt to new economic realities and learn the best practices and skills required by modern, flexible businesses. This holds true for all industries including traditional manufacturing that has existed in Pennsylvania for generations and new sectors that have only recently begun to emerge.

For example, the burgeoning natural gas industry in Pennsylvania's Marcellus Shale regions presents an extraordinary opportunity that has the potential to create hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs and contribute billions of dollars to the state and local economies. Yet many of these positions will require significant technical expertise and it will be critical for quality training programs to be available to provide workers with the skills necessary to fill this new niche in the job market.

Clearly there is a tangible need for skilled workers in Pennsylvania and throughout the nation that will only increase in the years and decades to come. The PA Chamber supports the Center for America's effort to bring awareness to this challenge and provide resources to communities and suggestions for how groups might contribute to the goal of training 10 million skilled workers by 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Barr". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Gene Barr
Vice President
Government and Public Affairs