

WORKING AMERICA

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For Immediate Release

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Working America Mobilizes 100,000 People with Tele-Town Halls Across the Country on Economic Crisis

Gov. Ted Strickland, Sen. Bob Casey, and members of Congress join Working America members to talk jobs

(Washington, March 25) Gov. Ted Strickland, Sen. Bob Casey, and other elected leaders are joining Working America for a series of tele-town halls that will reach 100,000 people across the country to talk about job creation and financial reform. Tele-town hall participants are invited to ask questions and take action, calling for the creation of good jobs and to hold Wall Street accountable.

Across the country, Working America is convening the tele-town halls to connect working people with their elected representatives and to talk real solutions to the jobs crisis. Speakers have also addressed health care reform and what it means for working people. On Sunday, Gov. Ted Strickland will talk to Ohio Working America members. This week, Sen. Bob Casey spoke to Pennsylvania residents, and Congressman Tim Walz led the tele-town hall with Minnesota Working America members.

Sen. Al Franken, Colorado Senate President Brandon Shaffer, and Congressman Harry Teague have joined Working America for statewide and national tele-town halls. AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka, AFL-CIO Executive Vice President Arlene Holt Baker, AFL-CIO Deputy Chief of Staff Thea Lee, and consumer educator Gerri Detweiler are also joining the conversations.

The culmination of these forums will be a nationwide letter and petition delivery to members of Congress during the Easter recess calling for Main Street jobs and to make Wall Street pay. The tele-town hall petition and letters will detail ways for Congress to help Main Street, including extending unemployment benefits through the end of the year, using bailout money to invest in small businesses and supporting an independent, effective Consumer Financial Protection Agency.

“Working people are searching for solutions to fix the economic crisis, and they’re looking for answers on how to keep their heads above water until good jobs come back,” said Karen Nussbaum, executive director of Working America. “The tele-town halls are a critical way to provide people with resources and an opportunity to mobilize to create Main Street jobs and make Wall Street pay.”

The tele-town halls are a key component of Working America's campaign to create an economy that works for Main Street. Last week, Working America launched "I am not your ATM," which is a campaign to call for financial reform and to rein in big banks, at www.notyouratm.com.

In 2010, Working America will have 1.5 million conversations on jobs and the economy in communities across America. Working America is in the midst of engaging people across the country on the economic situation and provide ways for people to take action to call for solutions. In Michigan, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Colorado, working people recently convened table talks to discuss the jobs crisis and write letters to members of Congress.

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Working America, community affiliate of the AFL-CIO, represents working families to mobilize around economic issues like health care and good jobs. Working America represents 3 million people and is the fastest-growing organization for working people in the country. For more information, go to www.workingamerica.org.