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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3201
October 9, 2003

Governor George E. Pataki
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224

Dear Governor Pataki:

I am writing to urge you to contact the Department of Labor to request a National Emergency Workforce Investment Act Grant to assist employees of the Brookhaven IRS Service Center who may soon be out of work. If the IRS continues to move forward with ill-advised plans to prematurely eliminate the submissions processing center jobs this coming January, an estimated 100 permanent employees and nearly 1,000 seasonal employees are likely to be displaced.

The IRS is downsizing the Brookhaven facility as part of a larger plan to phase-out submissions processing services nationwide as more people transition to electronic filing of their tax returns. The Brookhaven location is the first facility to undergo this phase-out, and I believe it is only right to give these workers the same amount of time to secure new jobs as workers subjected to the phase-out in other areas of the country.

My office continues to call on the IRS to maintain the current workforce to process the returns of New York taxpayers through August of 2005, when the government's lease on the submissions processing facility expires. I believe that keeping the facility open will not only give the employees needed time to secure new jobs, but it will also help to assure that New York taxpayers do not experience any unnecessary delays in processing their returns.

As you know, states can request national emergency grants in situations where a community is hit by a mass layoff affecting 50 or more employees at a single workplace. Certainly, the 1100 workers who are slated to lose their jobs in January of 2004 meet this requirement. Although 1,000 of the employees who will be out of work are technically seasonal employees, I want to stress that many of these individuals rely on this seasonal employment as their primary source of income throughout the year.

New York continues to be hard-hit by the ongoing economic downturn that has taken a toll on so many of our communities. Consequently, the forthcoming layoff of at least 1,100 employees on Long Island will be particularly hard to absorb for the community and for their families. I believe it is important to do everything we can to help these workers quickly secure new jobs.

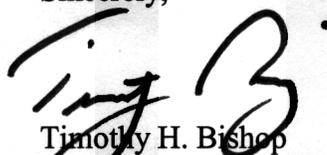
My office has been in contact with the Suffolk County Department of Labor and the One Stop Employment Center in Hauppauge, New York. I have been assured that the One Stop Center is

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aware of the pending reduction in force, and is prepared to quickly assemble job training and job search services directed towards the Brookhaven IRS Service Center workers immediately upon receipt of a national emergency grant from the Department of Labor.

Thank you for considering this urgent request. I look forward to hearing back from your office and appreciate in advance your willingness to help ease this transition by giving the One Stop Center the tools needed to focus on providing services to these employees in the critical days and weeks before the reduction in force occurs.

Sincerely,



Timothy H. Bishop
Member of Congress