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*Paul E. Patton*  
Governor of Kentucky  
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*Dirk Kempthorne*  
Governor of Idaho  
Vice Chairman

*Raymond C. Schappach*  
Executive Director

May 14, 2003

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Ranking Member  
Senate Finance Committee  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley and Senator Baucus:

On behalf of the nation's Governors, we would like to extend our appreciation for your efforts to ensure the inclusion of fiscal relief in the Senate's tax package to help states deal with the growing state fiscal crisis.

The inclusion of fiscal relief is critical to help states manage this crisis and meet our needs in addressing underfunded state-federal partnerships.

Congress should pass an economic growth package that will create and retain jobs and spur sustained economic growth resulting in long-term fiscal recovery for the states. This will be helpful to Governors who are facing growing demands meeting the needs of their states in addressing state-federal partnerships.

We thank you again for your assistance and look forward to continuing to work with you on this important issue.



Governor Paul E. Patton

Sincerely,



Governor Dirk Kempthorne