



Leo W. Gerard
International President

April 4, 2014

VIA FAX

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 1.2 million active and retired members of the United Steelworkers union (USW), **I urge you to pass S. 1747 the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2013.** While forty-eight months of private sector job growth has pulled the economy away from the worst recession since the Depression, millions are still looking for work and extended unemployment will assist with basic shelter and food needs.

The December lapse of federal unemployment benefits has cost the economy nearly \$5 billion in the first quarter of 2014, hindering our growing economy. Unemployment benefits assist workers as they look for work and provides for a just transition from the shock of losing a job. With over 2.2 million Americans without benefits it is critical that the Senate pass S. 1747.

S. 1747 is a step in the right direction to ensuring economic security for millions of Americans, particularly because for every job there are 2.9 unemployed workers. USW encourages the Senate to pass S. 1747 and to develop a package that will allow for a long-term extension of federal unemployment benefits after May 2014.

Sincerely,

Leo W. Gerard
International President

LWG/roh/cdk