



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **JOBS DAY UNITES MEMBERS OF DIVERSE COALITION AT THE CAPITOL**

*Building Jobs Coalition Will Unite On the Steps of the State Capitol to Highlight the Need for Legislative Action to Grow Jobs*

**ST. PAUL, Minn.** The Building Jobs Coalition, a diverse group of contractors, building trade unions, architects, engineers, economic developers and public officials focused on growing jobs in the state of Minnesota through the design and construction of commercial, industrial, residential and institutional projects, will unite on the steps of the State Capitol on **Wednesday, March 10 at 1:00 p.m.**

Over 300 Coalition members will join Tri-Chairs Harry Melander, Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council; Beverly Hauschild-Baron, American Institute of Architects Minnesota; and Dave Semerad, Associated General Contractors of Minnesota.

“As the Building Jobs Coalition gathers on the steps of the State Capitol, we come together with a common purpose to grow jobs,” said Beverly Hauschild-Baron, Tri-Chair, Building Jobs Coalition. “We have come together because the design industry cannot thrive without the success of the building industry – and vice versa.”

Speakers at the 1:00 p.m. event on the State Capitol steps will include the Coalition Tri-Chairs and the following elected officials:

- Governor Tim Pawlenty (Tentative)
- Speaker of the House Margaret Anderson Kelliher
- Senate Majority Leader Larry Pogemiller
- Senate Minority Leader Dave Senjem
- House Minority Leader Kurt Zellers (Tentative)

“The design and building sectors are essential to Minnesota’s economy. If action is not taken immediately, many skilled workers with years of experience will be permanently dislocated,” remarked Harry Melander, Tri-Chair, Building Jobs Coalition. “In 2005, employment in the design and building sectors peaked at 147,000. Today, after four years of job loss, employment in these sectors has plummeted to only 75,000 workers.”

**(MORE)**

The Building Jobs Coalition, together with legislative leadership and the administration, has drafted a legislative agenda designed to spur activity in the design and building industry through a large capital investment bill and by leveraging and stimulating private investment. Key components of the Building Jobs Coalition agenda include:

- Large bonding bill – Support for the **largest** bonding bill possible
- Historic rehabilitation tax credit – Mirrors 30 other states, spurring labor-intensive investment in historic properties
- Low income housing tax credit – Boost investment in low income housing projects
- New Market tax credits – Facilitate private investment in underserved communities
- Energy efficiency improvements – Complement federal energy tax credits for energy conservation projects
- TIF flexibility – Allow for flexibility for a short, stimulus period focused on economic development
- Green bonding program – Support energy efficient, sustainable design and resource conservation
- Building permits – Extend building permits previously approved but set to expire

“The implementation of the Building Jobs Coalition agenda will not just help Minnesota recover from the recession, but will also position Minnesota advantageously in an increasingly global economy,” said Dave Semerad, Tri-Chair, Building Jobs Coalition. “This agenda will supplement stimulus efforts at the federal level to pave the way for construction projects that will remediate and redevelop brownfield sites; improve the energy efficiency of Minnesota’s built environment; provide needed financing for commercial, industrial and residential projects; and put people to work across the state.”

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