

## **Council on Competitiveness**

Economic Stimulus Proposals Excerpted from the following Council Reports  
*Compete. Prioritize. Rebound.* (draft)

[www.compete.org](http://www.compete.org)

### **1. Unlock Private Sector Investment to Create Jobs, Stimulate Economic Growth and Speed America's Recovery.**

Enabling companies to immediately expense the full cost of new capital equipment and facilities investments could unlock corporate balance sheets, stimulating jobs and growth. For many companies, the retirement of older equipment and subsequent investment in more efficient machinery, vehicles and equipment will generate tremendous gains in energy efficiency and cost savings as well.

### **2. Give Consumers and Small Businesses Tax Incentives to Invest in Green Technology.**

The economic stimulus package should also unlock household and small business capital to encourage purchases of energy efficient products by enacting tax provisions that allow individuals and small businesses to deduct, in the 2009 tax year, the full value of products that are Energy Star certified or that have a recognized efficiency rating up to \$50,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for small businesses.

### **3. Build American Next Generation Infrastructure Right Now without Going Deeper in Debt to other Countries.**

The nation can fund next generation infrastructure projects through a unique program called *CompeteBond* (similar in concept to War Bonds)— tax-exempt, federally-guaranteed bonds available to any American who wants to contribute to our nation's economic revitalization while raising the personal saving rate.

### **4. In Addition to Creating Jobs, America Needs to Fill the Ones We Have.**

The largest number of job openings over the next 10-15 years will be in middle-skilled jobs—but the current workforce training system is fragmented and often delinked to forward-looking job opportunities. Create a *CompetePass* program where workers receive a card to be used at approved training programs, which are linked to job opportunities for those people who successfully complete the training.

### **5. Jumpstarting Energy Infrastructure Investments.**

Our country requires a \$200 billion National Clean Energy Bank to provide debt financing and drive private investment in the development of sustainable energy solutions and supporting infrastructure.

### **6. Spawn Technological Breakthroughs and Entrepreneurship.**

We need to drastically ramp up investment in R&D and market commercialization to deliver secure, sustainable and affordable clean energy while generating well-paying domestic jobs. Triple federal energy R&D and create the "21<sup>st</sup> Century Clean Energy Leadership Initiative," to create regionally-based R&D test-beds and large-scale commercial pilots. Fund the significant backlog of research facilities renovation and instrumentation programs at NSF, NIST and DOE.