



From the office of Texas Workforce Commission

# Chairman Tom Pauken

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Opinion/Editorial

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## **TWC Chairman Tom Pauken Calls on Congress to Focus on Private-Sector Job Creation**

In the wake of today's announcement that the national unemployment rate has risen to 10.2 percent, Chairman Tom Pauken of the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) called on Congress to focus more attention on passing legislation to encourage job creation and capital investment in the private sector, particularly for small businesses where most new jobs are created.

"Obviously, the Obama administration's stimulus plan isn't helping get people back to work," stated Pauken. "Americans who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own do not benefit from what is shaping up as a 'jobless recovery,' unless Congress acts quickly to encourage job creation in the private sector."

Pauken went on to make specific recommendations as to how to get the American economy moving again while creating jobs here at home.

"Congress should pass immediately legislation along the lines proposed by FedEx Chairman Fred Smith to allow companies that make capital investments here in the United States to expense those investments in a one-year period while unemployment remains high. Alternatively, Congress should reinstate the investment tax credit which allows for accelerated depreciation for capital investments in the United States. That law was repealed in 1986."

Pauken also criticized the current tax system and called for replacing it with one which would create jobs here in the United States.

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“For the long run, we need to replace our onerous business tax system with a revenue-neutral, border-adjusted consumption tax in order to bring good-paying jobs home to America. Our current tax system rewards debt, and discourages savings and investment. It is destroying our manufacturing base and making the U.S. less competitive with our trading partners. It needs to be completely replaced in order to bring jobs home to America. Under our current tax system, we are exporting prosperity – and good jobs – abroad.”

Pauken concluded, “The number one issue facing Congress today is how to get Americans back to work. Neither the Bush nor the Obama administration has offered long term solutions to fix the serious, structural problems facing the American economy. The time to act is now before it is too late.”

*Tom Pauken is the Chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission.*

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*The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the programs it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org).*