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On President Obama's Nomination of Jason Furman to Chair the Council of Economic Advisors

Statement of Christine Owens, Executive Director, National Employment Law Project

The National Employment Law Project commends President Obama on his choice of Jason Furman to head the Council of Economic Advisors. Furman has served the Obama administration since its inception, most recently as principal deputy director of the National Economic Council. He came to the White House at a time of economic despair and immediately became a steadfast champion of crucial safety net programs that helped families weather the Great Recession.

Few public officials have been as steadfast as Furman in their support of the unemployed. As one of the architects of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, he helped ensure not just a broadening of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation program, but also the inclusion of important modernizations to the unemployment insurance system designed to cover more unemployed workers, as well as important supports such as subsidized COBRA premiums for unemployed workers and their families.

In NELP's work with Furman on economic recovery policies and programs, we have found him to be a skilled, thoughtful and insightful public servant, attuned to often competing demands and priorities and adept at balancing them in ways that serve the broader public good. We have no doubt he will apply these talents as chair of the CEA, and we look forward to working with him on what matters most to most Americans: creating a robust economy built on good jobs with living wages and a strong safety net to ensure economic opportunity and security for all of America's working families. We call on the Senate to promptly confirm this exceptional nomination.

The National Employment Law Project is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization that conducts research and advocates on issues affecting low-wage and unemployed workers. For more about NELP, visit www.nelp.org.

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