

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 11, 2004

The Honorable George W. Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It has come to my attention that the Administration's plan to announce who will fill the new position of Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Manufacturing appears to have been delayed. Since this position has been vacant since its creation in September, I am writing today to respectfully ask you to set a firm date for appointing the so-called Manufacturing Czar and to inquire why the job has yet to be filled.

More than 2.8 million manufacturing jobs have been lost since you assumed office. Last month alone, another 3,000 manufacturing jobs were lost, bringing manufacturing employment to a 53-year low. Although you continue to say that the economy is in recovery, the millions of Americans who remain out of work would strongly disagree.

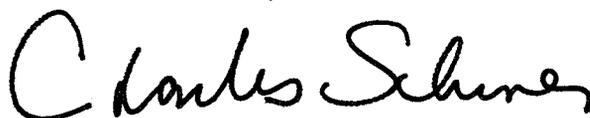
During your trip to Ohio yesterday, you continued to talk about an economic recovery despite the fact that the trade deficit climbed to a monthly record of \$43 billion in January, fueled in part by the Chinese imports flooding into the nation and hurting US manufacturing. Given the troubling trade deficit numbers, I was heartened to learn that the Manufacturing Czar post would finally be filled today.

It was disturbing to learn, however, that the Administration canceled today's news conference announcing who would fill the manufacturing post after it was discovered that this person, Tony Raimondo, heads a company building a \$3 million factory in China and has laid off 75 American workers.

Mr. President, in a country of successful entrepreneurs and businesspeople, the Administration should be able to find at least one person who has a proven track record of creating and keeping jobs here in the United States. The Administration has had six months to choose a serious candidate for this position, but does not appear to have done so.

Our nation's job losses demand answers and polices from the White House. Simply offering rhetoric about sharing the concerns of American workers will not bring back the jobs that have been lost.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator