



October 24, 2011

Mr. Stephen E. Nowlan  
Center for America  
250 Willow Springs Drive  
Roswell, GA 30075

**RE: *10 X 20 Pledge Campaign***

Dear Mr. Nowlan,

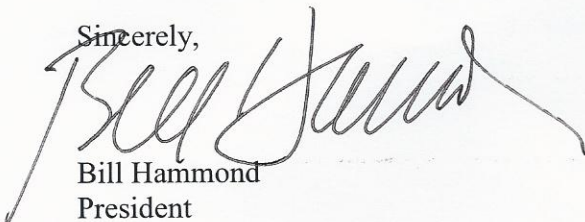
On behalf of 3,000-plus business members from across Texas and over 200 chambers of commerce, the Texas Association of Business (TAB) wholeheartedly supports the *10 X 20 Pledge Campaign* by the Center for America (CFA). We agree with the campaign that rebuilding America's prosperity in the global marketplace of the 21st century requires us to work hard to keep jobs in America and to create new generations of skills.

TAB knows that the CFA's campaign goals are reachable, and we know that we must do a better job of providing more training opportunities that will help to build a strong workforce. In Texas, the oil and gas industry, as well as the manufacturing and electric industries, are expanding at rapid rates. All of these growing industries present enormous opportunity for job growth in the Lone Star State. However, just because Texas is creating jobs, does not mean that it has the individuals to fill these jobs.

TAB knows that we need an educated workforce because our employers are in critical need of highly-skilled workers who have an understanding of today's tools, technologies and processes. For years, TAB's top priorities have been both public and higher education. TAB has supported initiatives that, we believe, work towards the goal of producing educated and highly-trained individuals. We have been the frontrunners in supporting changes in fiscal policy that would, for example, allocate limited dollars to producing more welders and fewer anthropologists.

TAB applauds CFA's effort to increase awareness and increase training opportunities in order to allow people to become qualified for the jobs of the future. TAB thanks you for all that you are doing and we look forward to partnering with you.

Sincerely,



Bill Hammond  
President