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LETTER

A New Civilian Conservation Corps

Published: August 27, 2011

To the Editor:

One proven way to create jobs in America ("[A Jobs Agenda. Anyone?](#)," editorial, Aug. 15) is to reprise the Civilian Conservation Corps, which was one of the most effective and most popular programs of the New Deal.

I have introduced [legislation](#) (H.R. 494) that would create a modern-day C.C.C. to employ currently idled Americans, with returning unemployed veterans leading civilian teams of unemployed workers in rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, repairing our damaged environment through tree planting and other conservation projects, and revitalizing local communities.

Every dollar of investment in bricks, mortar, infrastructure and environment returns \$1.59 to the economy. This is six times more "bang for the buck" than tax credits and other arcane policy options whose economic impact drain through the economy and yield only 30 cents for every dollar expended.

Moreover, the 21st-century C.C.C. could be quickly mobilized to address the job crisis. Its predecessor was up and running and employing almost 300,000 Americans within three months.

Rather than allowing the economy to stagnate and leaving our public assets to deteriorate, we can build our way out of this economic downturn. We simply need to remember one of the important lessons of the "greatest generation": useful work transforms lives and builds our nation forward.

MARCY KAPTUR

Member of Congress, 9th Dist., Ohio

Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 17, 2011

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