

# HIRE a good first step to put unemployed back to work

**N**ALC President Fred Rolando recently joined his fellow members of the AFL-CIO Executive Council in praising President Barack Obama's March 18 signing of the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act, a bill designed to help put unemployed Americans back to work.

for our customers and our families," said Rolando, who has served among the labor federation's leaders since last summer. *(For more about the NALC's struggle to save both the Postal Service and letter carrier jobs, see pages 13-19.)*

The new law, which passed the House in December and the Senate on March 17, cuts taxes for businesses that hire someone who has been jobless for two months or more and allows those businesses to write off any equipment investments they might make this year.

HIRE also encourages jobs creation by expanding the federal government's investments in schools and in clean energy projects, such as windmill and solar-panel farms. Plus, the law includes a one-year extension of the federal highway program, which will help keep Americans working, building new roads, bridges and public transit projects, and it provides states some assistance in financing their own infrastructure maintenance programs.

"With unemployment in this country at near-record levels," Rolando said, "this bill is a good first step, but more needs to be done to provide all Americans the opportunity to support their families and live comfortable, happy lives."

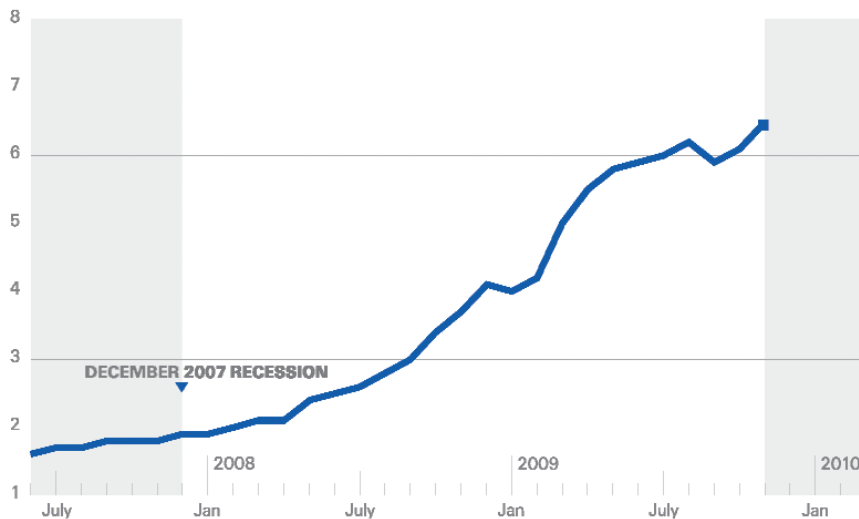
President Obama agreed. "Our economy is now growing again and we may soon be adding jobs instead of losing them," he said at the bill's signing ceremony, adding that the bill "is intended to help accelerate that process."

"Government can't create all the jobs we need nor can it repair all the damage that's been done by this recession," he said. "But we can nurture the conditions that allow companies to succeed and to grow."

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka conceded that HIRE represents just one step in a broad and intensive effort to rebuild the economy. "But we need to restore the jobs that were lost to the financial debacle. We have to maintain funding for vital services by state and local governments and prevent destructive cuts in education, police and fire protection and more." ☒

## 6.4 Job-Seekers for Every Job

The number of unemployed persons per job opening.



SOURCE: EPI analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data

"While our own fight to preserve our jobs and our employer continues, it's encouraging to watch the president and the worker-friendly majorities in Congress do something to make life better

## Hutson appointed RAA in Region 3 (Chicago)

President Rolando has appointed, effective April 5, Jerry "Tony" Hutson, of Branch 88 in Galesburg, Illinois, as regional administrative assistant in Region 3 to fill the spot previously held by Mack Julion Jr., who was recently elected president of Chicago Branch 11.

Hutson, 38, has been chief steward for Branch 88 for the past six years. He was a graduate of NALC's first Leadership Academy class in 2005. He has served as an arbitration advocate since 2005.

Hutson, his wife, Robin, and a stepdaughter currently reside in Galesburg. ☒

