



1700 N. Moore Street, Suite 2250, Arlington, VA 22209  
Phone: 703-841-2300 Fax: 703-841-1184  
Email: [info@rila.org](mailto:info@rila.org) [www.rila.org](http://www.rila.org)

January 24, 2008

President George W. Bush  
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA) representing the world's largest and fastest growing retail companies, I thank you for your leadership in reaching a common-sense fiscal stimulus package to help strengthen our nation's economy. Your bipartisan and timely efforts will directly benefit the American people.

RILA members account for more than \$1.5 trillion in annual sales, provide millions of jobs and operate more than 100,000 stores, manufacturing facilities and distribution centers domestically and abroad.

The Department of Commerce announced earlier this month that December 2007 retail sales - a leading indicator of the U.S. economy - were down 0.4 percent over the previous month. With retail on the front line of the U.S. economy and more than two-thirds of our economy driven by consumer spending, we understand that putting money back in the hands of Americans is the surest way to jumpstart an economic recovery.

We know from experience that immediate consumer relief is highly effective in quickly stimulating the economy. As such, we are working with House and Senate Leadership to urge Congress's swift passage of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Sandra L. Kennedy  
President