

A MESSAGE FROM
John Burbank,
Executive Director



The fight to improve the lives of ordinary Americans continues to be tough, even with Obama as president.

We can't wait on – or count on – federal solutions to the economic problems facing middle-class and low-income workers and families. So, much like in the previous years, we must build our own progressive solutions at the state and local levels.

Economic security and educational opportunity are universal rights, and they require policy solutions that are universal in nature – that is, available to people of all backgrounds and incomes. These solutions must bring hope and optimism to neighbors and communities currently caught in the miasma of the Great Recession.

Now is not the time to play defense. Rather, we need to step up to the plate and secure Washington's position as a national leader in policy development dedicated to building an economy that works – for everyone. Creative solutions to our problems in this state can provide a guiding light both for other states and federal-level policymakers.

To be clear: the road ahead is full of potential roadblocks. But they can be overcome – and will be – as we move away from "you're on your own" thinking toward a "we're all in this together" paradigm.

For more than a century, Washington State led the way in economic, political and cultural movements that have furthered the common good, including health and purchasing cooperatives, labor and credit unions, women's suffrage and a strong minimum wage initiative.

EIO is keeping Washington at the forefront of social and economic policy. So please join us as we focus on pragmatic policy and funding solutions for fundamental but yet unresolved issues of economic security, including: family leave insurance, minimum paid sick days, universal pre-kindergarten, well-compensated K-12 and early learning teachers, affordable college tuition, and a tax system that produces the revenue to enable us to realize a commonwealth of security, opportunity and hope.

On behalf of all of us at EIO, I thank you for your past support and look forward to working with you in 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Burbank".