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Obama: Stimulus means 74,000 AZ jobs

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PHOENIX — With his economic stimulus plan stalled in Congress, President Obama sent a memo to Arizonans promising more than 74,000 jobs will be created or saved if the plan is approved.

The memo, released Wednesday, also claims up to 2 million Arizonans will qualify for a tax cut of up to \$1,000 if the proposal, already approved by the U.S. House, becomes law; 75,000 Arizona families will be eligible for a new college tax credit; and more than 200,000 people out of work will get an extra \$100 a month in jobless benefits.

And Arizona will get enough money to modernize 193 schools, it says, "so our children have the labs, classrooms and libraries they need to compete in the 21st century economy."

The release of the memo comes as the president moves to turn up the political heat on members of the U.S. Senate who balked at the size of the stimulus package and what some lawmakers claim are pork-barrel projects.

Obama got the plan through the House without a single Republican vote. And while Democrats are the majority in the Senate, they do not control the necessary 60 Senate seats needed to keep minority Republicans from blocking final action on the \$900 billion package.