

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 22, 2006

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-218 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lewis:

As you know, the President has requested \$92 billion in emergency discretionary spending for Fiscal Year (FY) 2006 to support the Global War on Terror as well as provide additional hurricane disaster relief to the Gulf Coast region. To date, according to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), Congress has already provided some \$400 billion or so in emergency spending and budgetary resources to support both these activities.

As the Appropriations Committee begins its work on these supplemental spending requests, we urge you to report bills that are consistent with the following criteria:

- **The additional spending should be fully offset to the maximum extent possible, both budget authority and outlays.** CBO already projects a -\$337 billion deficit for FY 2006. Rather than further increasing this deficit, spending should be reduced elsewhere in the federal budget. Out of \$2.4 trillion in total federal spending (excluding net interest) for FY 2006, identifying savings is hardly impossible.
- **Keep the supplemental funding “clean” of items not requested by the President.** This will help ensure timely passage.
- **Spending that is not an emergency – sudden, necessary, unforeseen, and unexpected – as required by our current budget rules or belongs in the regular budget should be excluded.** Unfortunately, the current requests as well as past supplemental requests and bills have included both.
- **Follow the regular order.** These supplemental requests should not be bundled together but considered as stand alone, amendable measures.

We are committed to working with you to ensure that our men and women currently in harm’s way have the needed resources to continue defending America against all threats. We also support the federal government providing its legitimate share of hurricane disaster assistance to the Gulf Coast region. It’s simply time we restore fiscal discipline to this process and pay for these expenditures by making choices among competing spending priorities.

Sincerely,



MIKE PENCE
Member of Congress



JEB HENSARLING
Member of Congress