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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

**Committee On Appropriations**  
**Vice Chair, Republican Conference**

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Dear Republican Colleague,

In December we were on offense and had a strong finish. In fact, our team came on strong in the second quarter to pass a strong border enforcement bill, pension reform, legislation to reform federal programs to save taxpayers billions of dollars, appropriations bills that made real reductions in federal spending, and a Department of Defense spending bill which included a pay raise for our soldiers and the funds necessary to win the war on terror.

But now there are those who want to put us back on defense. They would like the current transition process to weaken, not strengthen us. And they would like to keep it going until November.

But it will only happen if we let it.

Our Conference has been through tougher transitions and tackled tougher issues. The way to move forward is to do just that—move forward. We need to get back to our basic priorities, to the issues that our constituents want us to address. We need priority-based leadership.

Enclosed is a list of issues with which we are all familiar. These are the issues that have great support among our base and swing voters. These are the issues that matter outside of the beltway, regardless of what the New York Times or Washington Post opine.

Over the past months I have spoken to many Members—from our Freshman class to our Senior Committee Chairmen—about these issues and how they would play out in their district. I have also talked to consultants and wordsmiths. While not everyone agrees with everything on the list, I hope it can help us focus on our priorities and serve as a point of discussion. I hope you will consider these or other priorities you feel are key to the debate.

At the upcoming retreat, we should work together to agree on a list of issues that we will dedicate all our efforts to passing this year. It will be our commitment to America that we are focused on their concerns and worthy of retaining the majority.

Thank you for your friendship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jack Kingston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of "J" being particularly large and stylized.

Jack Kingston  
Member of Congress

# American Renewal Project

- Fiscal Accountability and Responsibility to Save Hardworking Taxpayer Money.
- Controlling the Nation's Borders to Prevent Illegal Immigration and Criminal Activity.
- Energy Independence from Middle East Oil.
- Simplify the Federal Tax Code to Make it Easier, Fair, and Honest.
- Strengthen Retirement Security for Current and Future Generations. Stop Spending the Social Security Surplus.
- Reduce Federal Bureaucracy and Make the Federal Government Work Smarter.
- Make Health Care More Affordable, Accessible, and Patient-Centered.
- Support Our Troops and Continue to Win the War On Terror.

# American Renewal Project

## **1. Fiscal Accountability and Responsibility: keeping more money in the pockets of taxpayers and less in the Washington bureaucracy.**

Our plan for significant government reform will result in long-term real structural savings. We achieve this by:

- Appointing a special BRAC-type Commission which is independent of the political process and can recommend substantive savings;
- An across-the-board savings plan;
- Zero-based budgeting;
- Sunset provisions for all new government programs;
- Earmark reform.

## **2. A balanced immigration policy that secures the nation's borders and deters illegal immigration and criminal activity.**

**3. Strengthen America's national and economic security by realizing America's independence of Middle Eastern oil by 2015.** America's oil policy must strike a better balance for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – strengthen supply, increase conservation and embrace fuel choice.

**4. Congress should create a tax code that is simple, fair and honest.** The annual burden of filing taxes, for American families and businesses, has become overwhelming. Thousands of man-hours are wasted navigating the country's arcane tax laws, which could otherwise be spent with the family.

## **5. Strengthen retirement security for current and future generations. Stop spending the Social Security surplus.**

**6. Reduce the size of the federal bureaucracy, cut red-tape, and make the federal government work smarter.** The government model should be companies like Amazon.com, Google, UPS, American Express, Starbucks, and Verizon; not FEMA, the US Postal Service, and US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

- Renewed commitment to annual oversight included in the recently passed budget reform proposals. Saving money should be an everyday mission and not just something done when political pressure mounts.

**7. Make health care more affordable, accessible, and patient-centered.** Congress should consolidate the many related ideas that would help improve the nation's health care system including tort reform, medical technology reforms, association health plans, and deductibility of health costs.

**8. Support the troops and continue to win the War on Terror in Iraq and Afghanistan.** Congress needs to have a unified national vision that can be understood and followed by our constituents. We need to insist that the DOD outlines what is ahead and what is expected to ensure that we can measure progress and get the troops home as soon as possible.