

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 14, 2011

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We remain hopeful that an agreement will be reached in the near future regarding spending levels and the debt ceiling. We write to you today, however, to express strong concern about recent comments by Treasury Secretary Geithner. We ask that you clarify for the American people that the Treasury will in fact continue making the monthly interest payments owed on our national debt, even if the debt ceiling is reached.

As you are aware, the revenue projection for FY11 by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is \$2,230 billion. The total estimated interest payment for FY11 is \$213 billion. For FY12, CBO estimates revenues of \$2,558 billion and interest payments totaling \$257 billion.

Statements by Secretary Geithner have led many Americans to believe that reaching the debt ceiling will cause the United States government to go into default on its interest payments August 2<sup>nd</sup> if the debt ceiling is reached.

Clearly, that is not the case, as the figures above indicate. Additionally, many Americans believe making Social Security payments (CBO estimates: FY11: \$727 billion; FY12: \$760 billion), Medicare payments (CBO estimates: FY11: \$563 billion; FY12: \$560 billion) and ensuring the pay of our military personnel (DOD estimates: FY11 \$157 billion; FY12: \$160 billion) should be the Administration's next priorities. Allowing statements to the contrary jeopardizes the good faith and credit of the United States.

We ask that you make an immediate, clear and unequivocal public commitment that your Administration will continue to make all interest payments on time, as well as ensuring the pay of our military personnel, and making Social Security and Medicare payments in full.

We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Members of Congress

Robert B. Adelman

Kent Triantafyllidis  
Jo Bomer

Bill Posey

Myrland Pompey

David [unclear] AR-1

Blake Farnthold TX-27

Lyndon [unclear]

Randy Heltzer

Bruce [unclear]

[unclear]

Jeff Frankenburg

Don Parker

Kevin Lehman

Gill Long

[unclear] TX-2

Paul [unclear]

John [unclear]  
Gold Roberts

[unclear] TN-04

Tom Marino PA-10

James [unclear]

Trey Gowdy

[unclear]

Sam Cole

Howard Coble

Richard B. Sweet

John Chomay

Ally

Jenny Buckhorn

Jaime Herrera Beutler

David P. Roe

Gandy Adams

Pat Tiberi

Mo Brooks

Mine Dedeoglu

Pat Hinga

Na Hayworth

Bob Gibbs

Renee E. Ellmers

Diane Black

Austin Scott GA-08

W. Gooden

T. McArthur (MI-11)

Tim Huelskamp

Jan Schriack

Stewart Lee

Ally

Pete Farrow (TX-17)  
(MO-4)

Vicky Hartzler

Stephen M SD-AL

Along Lamborn CO-5

Lou Barletta PA-11

C. Causey TX-23

Tom Goh

Gregg Harper

[Signature] (CA-19)

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[Signature] (VT-1)

CRM (NY-20)

Mike Ryan AL-3

Mark TRO

In Seet (SC)

Alan Nunneke

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Robert B. Aderholt

Trent Franks

Jo Bonner

Bill Posey

Mike Pompeo

Rick Crawford

Blake Farenthold

Cory Gardner

Randy Hultgren

Robert Schilling

Daniel Webster

Jeff Fortenberry

Dan Rohrabacher

Louis Gohmert

Billy Long

Judge Ted Poe

Raul R. Labrador

John Duncan

Todd Rokita

Scott DesJarlais

Tom Marino

James Lankford

Trey Gowdy

Dan Burton

Tom Cole

Howard Coble

Richard B. Nugent

Tom Rooney

Jon Runyan

Larry Bucshon

Jaime Herrera-Beutler

David Roe

Sandy Adams

Pat Tiberi

Mo Brooks

Mike Fitzpatrick

Bill Huizenga

Na Hayworth

Bob Gibbs

Renee S. Ellmers

Diane Black

Austin Scott

W. Todd Akin

Thaddeus McCotter

Tim Huelskamp

Jean Schmidt

Stevan Pearce

Jeff Landry

Bill Flores

Vicky Hartzler

Kristi Noem

Doug Lamborn

Lou Barletta

Francisco (Quinco) Canseco

Tim Griffin

Gregg Harper

Jeff Denham

Rob Bishop

Chris P. Gibson

Mike Rogers

Stephen Fincher

Tim Scott

Allen Nunnelee