

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2012

Honorable Joseph Lieberman
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Suite 340
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Suite 340
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins:

We write today to request you include legislation to eliminate the automatic pay raise for Members of Congress on the agenda for the next business meeting of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. S. 133, introduced by Senator Claire McCaskill, is bipartisan legislation that would repeal the provision of law that provides automatic pay raises for Members of Congress. Sen. Tester has also introduced legislation that would make sure that there would be no automatic pay raises through December 31, 2013.

At a time when approval of Congress is at an all time low and millions of Americans across the United States continue to tighten their belts, we believe it is incumbent upon this Congress to do the same. Currently, as you may know, Members of Congress automatically receive an annual increase in their salary, meaning it takes legislative action to prevent members from getting a pay raise. Few, if any, of our constituents are afforded such an opportunity.

While the Congress has been successful in stopping this automatic pay raise for the past several fiscal years, we believe it is time to put a permanent end to this automatic pay increase.

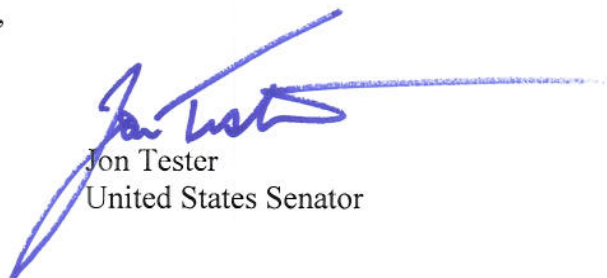
At a time when we must rein in federal spending, preventing Members of Congress from receiving an automatic pay raise is a small step we can take toward improving fiscal accountability and ensuring Congress isn't playing by a special set of rules that puts it out of step with most Americans.

We look forward to considering Sen. McCaskill and Sen. Tester's bills at the next business meeting and to working with you and your staff on this important matter.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator