



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

February 13, 2011

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

Dear Mr. President:

Thank you for the honest discussion we had this week at the White House about the challenges that face our nation. Jobs and the economy are the top concerns of the American people, and as such, they are the focus of our new majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.

I am encouraged we agree our economy isn't creating enough jobs, and I truly believe we share a genuine commitment to enacting policies that will help to change this reality for the American people. My colleagues and I remain concerned, however, that your administration is continuing its reliance on "stimulus" policies grounded in the belief that our nation can borrow and spend its way to prosperity, and that private-sector job creation is a function of government spending.

The American people believe the spending binge in Washington is hurting our economy, not helping it. I have attached to this letter a statement signed by 150 American economists who share this view, and agree that reducing government spending immediately is necessary to begin to create a more favorable environment for private-sector job creation in the United States. This statement comes just days after the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) independently confirmed that the new health care law will destroy an estimated 800,000 American jobs, and the nonpartisan chairman of the Federal Reserve warned in testimony before the House Budget Committee that continued deficit spending without significant spending reductions will be a drag on our economy.

Excessive government spending and borrowing is playing a central role in our economy's ongoing struggle to create private-sector jobs – crowding out private investment, sowing uncertainty among small businesses, and eroding confidence that is critical to job growth. To help create a better environment for job creation in America, we must reverse this spending binge as quickly as possible and free our economy from the burdens of excessive regulation, over-taxation, and runaway spending.

The path to prosperity lies in liberating our economy from the shackles of out-of-control spending and Big Government. Republicans stand ready to work with you and your administration to enact reforms that follow this path.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John A. Boehner".

John A. Boehner

## ECONOMISTS' STATEMENT TO PRESIDENT OBAMA

*“The national unemployment rate in our country remains unacceptably high, well above the levels promised to the American people when the 2009 ‘stimulus’ spending bill was signed into law. Efforts to spark private-sector job creation through government ‘stimulus’ spending have been unsuccessful.*

*“As economists deeply concerned about our nation's future, we urge a change in direction. To support real economic growth and support the creation of private-sector jobs, immediate action is needed to rein in federal spending. The need for such action is particularly acute in light of your request for Congress to pass legislation in the coming weeks to increase the national debt limit, and the increased burden small businesses face as a result of the new health care law and other regulatory challenges that create uncertainty for private-sector job-creators.*

*“Action is needed now to begin to slow government spending, reduce uncertainty and support the creation of new private-sector jobs. For the sake of millions of Americans who remain out of work – and future generations of Americans, who will carry the debt burden we are accumulating today – we respectfully urge that the leaders of both parties take action immediately to eliminate unnecessary federal spending, prevent tax hikes, stop regulatory threats to job creation, and enact reforms to put our nation back on a true path to prosperity.”*

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