

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2010

Chairman John M Spratt
House Budget Committee
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Paul Ryan
House Budget Committee
B71 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Spratt & Ranking Member Ryan:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2011 federal budget, we urge you to not only consider spending freezes, but to also give consideration to proposing some non-essential discretionary cuts as well. We look forward to working with you in a bipartisan fashion to get such a proposal passed by the House.

The budget passed by this House last year increased our national debt by over \$5 trillion over the next 5 years and raised our debt ceiling by close to 10 percent, our country simply cannot sustain such spending. American families are feeling the pinch of difficult economic times. They are taking the responsible approach, saving what they can and not recklessly spending the money they don't have. Unfortunately, Washington has been taking the opposite approach. Last year our national deficit was \$1.4 trillion, 3 times larger than any previous year's deficit and roughly 10 percent of GDP, the highest level since World War II. If projections hold true, the deficit for this year will be just as large or even greater. Additionally, our national debt has ballooned to over \$12 trillion, an increase of over 40 percent since January 2007; and each citizen's share of our national debt will soon eclipse \$40,000.

With record deficits, decreased revenues and out of control expenses - our government is facing dire circumstances. In FY09, the federal government spent the record amount of \$3.5 trillion. In the first two months of FY10, the federal government ran up a deficit of \$292 billion. Only five times in U.S. history has the U.S. run a higher annual deficit than what the FY10 deficit equaled through just two months. In December, the \$91.85 billion federal budget deficit was a record high for the month of December. This signified the 15th straight month where the government's expenses outpaced revenues. It is time to put a stop to the excessive spending in Washington, and by working together on a budget with spending freezes and cuts, we will be taking the first serious step in assuring the American people about our intention to get our financial house in order.

We realize that difficult choices will have to be made and significant resources will be needed to continue to keep Americans safe, to support our troops around the world and to provide resources to those soldiers returning home. However, many other federal agencies and non-essential programs saw a significant spending increase in the FY10 Omnibus spending bill. In fact, through the appropriations process spending for many of these agencies has increased close to 20 percent over the last two years. This doesn't even take into account what was allocated in the almost \$1 trillion so-called Stimulus. As such, any additional increases at this time are simply not a wise use of taxpayer money.

Again, we look forward to working with you to reduce the financial burden on future generations by taking a serious look at our national budget. It is time Washington stops spending and starts finding ways to really help put Americans back to work.

Sincerely,



Aaron Schock
Member of Congress



John Shimkus
Member of Congress




Tim Johnson
Member of Congress



Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress




Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



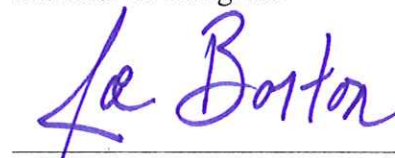
Dan Burton
Member of Congress



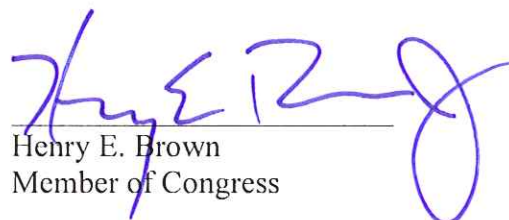
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Bob Inglis
Member of Congress



Joe Barton
Member of Congress




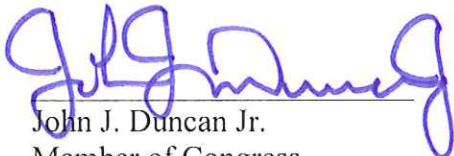
Henry E. Brown
Member of Congress


Cynthia M. Lummis
Member of Congress


Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress

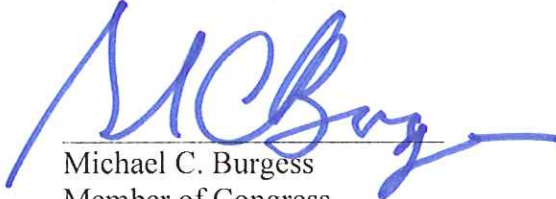

Howard P. "Buck" McKeon
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