

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 6, 2006

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert and Majority Leader Boehner:

As you consider the President's emergency funding request of \$92 billion for the Global War on Terror and Gulf Coast hurricane recovery efforts, we strongly urge you to bring these requests to the House floor as separate stand-alone measures and allow full and fair consideration.

Too often, Congress has relied on adding controversial or unrelated items on a "must pass" defense supplemental in order to pass them when they otherwise might face stronger opposition. We believe bundling these requests together is an unwise budgetary practice. Rather, *this practice should be the exception not the rule* because "emergency" expenditures do not count against annual budget caps yet still add to the deficit. Therefore, these requests deserve separate consideration.

We know that certain requests outside the usual budget process may be vital to our nation's interests and should be addressed especially if they are urgent, unforeseen, and short term. If these are true emergencies, Floor time should never be an issue – the bills should displace less important legislative business until the House has fully and separately debated them both, especially when we are providing funding for our Armed Forces to complete their mission. Allowing separate consideration of unrelated emergency spending will ensure that only truly critical funding will be appropriated outside the normal budget process. Equally important, it will afford an opportunity to find the necessary and appropriate offsets for much, if not all, of this emergency funding.

Given our concerns about the budget deficit and unrelated spending being included in emergency appropriations, the House should have the opportunity to debate, amend and vote on these two funding packages separately on the House floor.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration in this matter. We look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Orin Lee

Tom Price

W. M. Moberg

Jeff Miller

Chie Payne

Lynn A. H.

Jan Tancredo

Steve King

Ed. B. Smith

Wally Huger

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