

AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY®

September 24, 2010

Dear RSC Chairman Tom Price and RSC Budget and Spending Taskforce Chairman Jim Jordan,

On behalf of more than 1.5 million Americans for Prosperity activists in all 50 states, I am encouraged by your resolution providing continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011. The federal government's budget has grown unacceptably in recent years and it is time to return spending to a reasonable level.

The Republican Study Committee's proposal to save nearly \$100 billion with a full year continuing resolution at 2008 levels—for non-security discretionary spending—sends an important signal to the American people that there are members in Congress who understand their concerns about bloated spending. Furthermore, the inclusion of specific provisions to defund ObamaCare and block wasteful earmarks is particularly well-timed.

The federal government's expenditures should be measured as a percentage of the gross domestic product. Over the past forty years, federal expenditures have averaged approximately 20 percent of GDP. This benchmark shows a reasonable balance of society's desire to deal with issues through government, while still respecting property rights and the private sector. However, over the past few years this balance has been destroyed -- with federal spending reaching 24.7 percent of GDP in 2009 and 25.4 percent in 2010.

Supporters of bigger government claim the recession "required" increased government spending to bridge the demand gap. However, the so-called stimulus package was really just a wasteful buffet of Democratic priorities that had been languishing in member offices for years. The collection of policies advanced under the Keynesian mantra of "targeted, timely and temporary" amounted to \$862 billion failed experiment. Among the projects funded were: window replacement for a park visitor's center that has been closed since 2007; ant species research; tree planting and urban forest creation; interplanetary weather forecasting; and—of course—signage to promote all of the other projects.

It is time for the country to restore fiscal sanity and return to pre-stimulus funding levels. The RSC's continuing resolution for one year at 2008 levels is a good step in that direction and I encourage your colleagues to support this initiative.

Sincerely,



James Valvo
Director of Government Affairs
Americans for Prosperity

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) is a nationwide organization of citizen-leaders committed to advancing every individual's right to economic freedom and opportunity. AFP believes reducing the size and intrusiveness of government is the best way to promote individual productivity and prosperity for all Americans. AFP educates and engages citizens to support restraining state and federal government growth and returning government to its constitutional limits. AFP is more than 1.5 million activists strong, with activists in all 50 states. AFP has 31 state chapters and affiliates. More than 70,000 Americans in all 50 states have made a financial contribution to AFP or AFP Foundation. For more information, visit www.americansforprosperity.org. Americans for Prosperity does not support or oppose candidates for public office.