

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 14, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
H-107, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Hoyer:

We can no longer put off addressing the nation's fiscal crisis, which was created by years of mismanagement and has been exacerbated by the recent economic crisis. Failure to put in place and properly enforce budget enforcement mechanisms that cut and restrain the growth in federal spending will only make the tough, necessary decisions harder to achieve in the future.

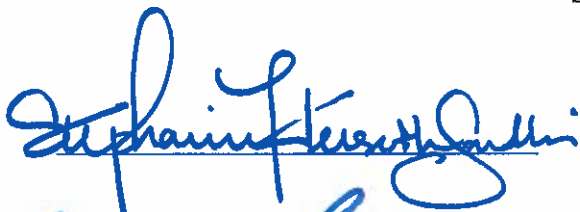

Markets around the world, including ours, were shaken by the debt crisis in Europe. Many economists point to the U.S.'s high levels of debt and wonder if our country is heading towards a similar fate. While our economy is still recovering and more needs to be done to create jobs, it is critical that we balance these investments with offsets over the long run.

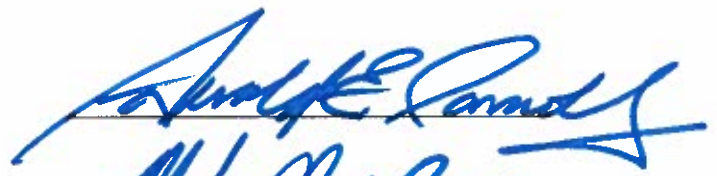

We recognize and understand the need for the emergency designation as narrowly defined in the statutory PAYGO law recently passed by the House and signed into law by President Obama. However, we have made a commitment to pay for our priorities. It is critical that we uphold our efforts to restore fiscal discipline to the federal government by not using this tool for anything other than it is intended – a true, unforeseen emergency.

Extending critical, economic investments is no more important than paying for them. America is facing a debt crisis that is threatening to undermine our economic and national security. We can no longer afford to exacerbate the problem because the decisions about how to pay for what we spend are getting harder.

We stand ready to work together with you to ensure that deficit reduction continues to be a top priority of Congress and the administration, and to take meaningful steps to reduce spending and pay for our priorities now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Leonard L. Berwell

Alan White

Samuel D. Bishop

Jim Matheson

J. H. [unclear]

John [unclear]

Joe [unclear]

[unclear]

Joe [unclear]

Lil [unclear]

Brad [unclear]

John T. [unclear]

Jean Altmire

[unclear]

Doris W. Childers

~~[unclear]~~

[unclear]

Hoyd [unclear]

Ed [unclear]

Charles Melancon

Stan [unclear]

Arthur P. [unclear]

Jim [unclear]

Scott Murphy

Kathy Dahlke

Bobby Bright

Patsy Hestey

Allen Boyd

David Carley

DLB

Gene Taylor

Mike McIntyre

Al Phillips

MLL

Alan Smith

Jane Haman

Ken Allen

Loeth Janke

Paul Schuler

Peter Welch

Ben Chandler

J. Long

Winnie Harvorn

Peterson

Debbie

J. Giffard

Millie Shomps

Bart Snyder

Jim Jones

Colin Jones

McSchauer

Tim Hill

Walt Merrill

Michael H. Michael

Baron P. Hill