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(Original Signature of Member)

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES.

Pledging not to assemble for a lame-duck session of Congress during the
111th Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. PRICE of Georgia submitted the following resolution; which was referred
to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Pledging not to assemble for a lame-duck session of Congress
during the 111th Congress.

Whereas a reconvening of Congress between the regularly
scheduled Federal election in November and the start of
the next session of Congress is known as a lame-duck
session of Congress;

Whereas Democrats have recently insinuated that significant
legislative matters would deliberately not be addressed
during the 111th Congress until after the midterm 2010
elections;

Whereas this Congress began its mortgage of the Nation's fu-
ture with a "stimulus" package costing \$1.1 trillion that
failed to lower unemployment, spur economic growth, or

actually address the needs of struggling American businesses and families;

Whereas this Congress continued its freewheeling spending with an increase of \$72.4 billion in nonemergency discretionary spending in fiscal year 2009 to reach a total spending level of \$1.01 trillion for the first time in United States history;

Whereas this Congress approved a budget resolution in 2009 that proposed the 6 largest nominal deficits in American history and included tax increases of \$423 billion during a period of sustained high unemployment;

Whereas the House of Representatives disregarded the interests and opinions of everyday Americans by passing a national energy tax bill that would increase costs on nearly every aspect of American lives by up to \$3,000 per person per year, eliminate millions of jobs, reduce workers' income, and devastate economic growth;

Whereas this Congress disregarded the interests and opinions of everyday Americans by passing a massive government takeover of health care that will force millions of Americans from their health insurance plans, increase premiums and costs for individuals and employers, raise taxes by \$569.2 billion, and fund abortions — all at a cost of \$2.64 trillion over the first 10 years of full implementation;

Whereas this Congress nationalized the student loan industry with a potential cost of 30,000 private sector jobs and \$50.1 billion over 10 years;

Whereas the House of Representatives passed the DISCLOSE Act, which would violate the First Amendment and hinder the free speech of citizens associations and

corporations while leaving all unions exempt from many of the new requirements, in order to try to influence the outcome of the midterm 2010 elections;

Whereas in spite of the House Budget Committee Chairman's 2006 statement that "if you can't budget, you can't govern", the Democrat leadership has failed to introduce a budget resolution in 2010 as mandated by law, but instead self-executed a "deeming resolution" that increases nonemergency discretionary spending in fiscal year 2011 by \$30 billion to \$1.121 trillion, setting another new record for the highest level in United States history;

Whereas this Congress has failed Main Street through passage of a financial system takeover that fails to end the moral hazard of too-big-to-fail, does not address Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and creates numerous new boards, councils, and positions with unconstitutionally broad authorities that will interfere with the creation of wealth and jobs;

Whereas this Congress has wasted taxpayer funds on an unnecessary and unconstitutional auto industry bailout, a "cash for clunkers" program, a home remedification program ("cash for caulkers"), and countless other special interest projects while allowing the public debt to reach its highest level in United States history;

Whereas the New York Times reported on June 19, 2010, that "[f]or all the focus on the historic federal rescue of the banking industry, it is the government's decision to seize Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in September 2008 that is likely to cost taxpayers the most money. . . . Republicans want to sever ties with Fannie and Freddie once the crisis abates. The Obama administration and

Congressional Democrats have insisted on postponing the argument until after the midterm elections”;

Whereas the Washington Times reported on June 22, 2010, that House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer stated, “a budget, which sets out binding one-year targets and a multiyear plan, is useless this year because Congress has shunted key questions about deficits to the independent debt commission created by President Obama, which is due to report back at the end of this year”;

Whereas the Hill reported on June 24, 2010, that Senator Tom Harkin, a Democrat from Iowa, suggested that “Democrats might attempt to move ‘card-check’ legislation this year, perhaps during a lame-duck session. . . . ‘A lot of things can happen in a lame-duck session, too,’ he said”;

Whereas the New York Times published an article on June 28, 2010, titled “Lame-Duck Session Emerges as Possibility for Climate Bill Conference” that declares, “many expect the final energy or climate bill to be worked out during the lame-duck session between the November election and the start of the new Congress in January”;

Whereas the Hill reported on July 1, 2010, that “Democratic leaders are likely to punt the task of renewing Bush-era tax cuts until after the election. Voters in November’s midterms will thus be left without a clear idea of their future tax rates when they go to the polls”;

Whereas the Wall Street Journal reported on July 13, 2010, that “there have been signs in recent weeks that party leaders are planning an ambitious, lame-duck session to muscle through bills in December they don’t want to defend before November. Retiring or defeated members of

Congress would then be able to vote for sweeping legislation without any fear of voter retaliation”;

Whereas the Hill reported on July 27, 2010, that Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said, at the recent Netroots Nation conference of liberal bloggers, in reference to Democrats’ unfinished priorities, “We’re going to have to have a lame duck session, so we’re not giving up”;

Whereas the Hill reported in the same piece on July 27, 2010, that the lame-duck session will include priorities such as “comprehensive immigration reform, climate change legislation and a whole host of other issues”;

Whereas during NBC’s Meet the Press on August 8, 2010, White House advisor Carol Browner stated that Congress would “potentially” deal with a national energy tax bill in a lame-duck session;

Whereas the Hill reported on August 20, 2010, that Rep. Mike Quigley (D–IL) said, “I’m more hopeful about the lame duck session. I have faith that we’re going to repeal Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”;

Whereas the members of the House Republican Conference, as an alternative to passing a massive omnibus spending bill for next year during a lame-duck session, have called on members of both parties, as a starting point, to work together this month to enact legislation that cuts non-security discretionary spending to 2008 levels (the last year before the wave of bailouts, stimulus spending sprees, and takeovers that have dismayed the American people) for the next year and provides much-needed certainty to American small businesses by freezing tax rates at their current levels for the next 2 years;

Whereas recent public polling shows that the American people clearly oppose the idea of dealing with major new legislation in a lame-duck session;

Whereas the Declaration of Independence notes that governments “[derive] their just powers from the consent of the governed”;

Whereas the American people have expressed their loss of confidence through self-organized and self-funded taxpayer marches on Washington, at countless “tea party” events, at townhalls and speeches, and with numerous letters, emails, and phone calls to their elected representatives;

Whereas the Democrat majority has all but announced plans to use any lame-duck Congress to advance currently unattainable, partisan policies that are widely unpopular with the American people or that further increase the national debt against the will of most Americans;

Whereas reconvening the House of Representatives in a lame-duck session to address major new legislation subverts the will of the American people, lessens accountability, and does lasting damage to the dignity and integrity of this body’s proceedings; and

Whereas under the leadership of Speaker Pelosi and the Democrat majority, and largely due to the current trends of expanding governmental power and limiting individual liberty, the American people have lost confidence in their elected officials, and that faith must be restored: Now, therefore, be it—

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives pledges
- 2 not to assemble on or between November 2, 2010, and
- 3 January 3, 2011, except in the case of an unforeseen, sud-

1 den emergency requiring immediate action from Congress,
2 and that the consideration of any of the following matters
3 does not constitute an unforeseen, sudden emergency:

4 (1) Card check, including H.R. 1409 (111th).

5 (2) A national energy tax, including H.R. 2454
6 (111th).

7 (3) Any legislation that would provide more au-
8 thority to Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac.

9 (4) Any legislation pertaining to the Immigra-
10 tion and Nationality Act.

11 (5) Any legislation making regular appropria-
12 tions for fiscal year 2011 that would be an increase
13 over previous funding levels.

14 (6) Any legislation increasing any tax on any
15 American.