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Mike Kelly's Third District E-Newsletter

Dear Friend,

America needs a turnaround plan. *And we need it fast*

As you may know, a few weeks ago, for the first time in America's history, our nation's credit rating was downgraded from AAA to AA+ with a negative outlook. This should have come as no surprise. For far too long, Washington has lived beyond its means, spending money it didn't have, making promises it couldn't keep, and recklessly racking up more than \$14 trillion in debt.

Since our credit was downgraded, the markets have spun in a downward spiral, causing panic and creating even greater uncertainty during these challenging economic times.

Adding to the increasingly pessimistic outlook on the U.S. economy was the announcement that our first quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which measures our nation's economic growth, was lower than expected. The Commerce Department revised its original anemic first quarter GDP estimate of 1.8 percent, lowering it to a dismal growth rate of only 0.4 percent, the lowest quarterly GDP in nearly two years.

The bottom line is that our economy is not growing fast enough to get us out of the financial mess we are in and to get Americans back to work. Meanwhile, our debt is growing so fast that each day Washington borrows more

than \$4 billion, much of it from China, to feed its spending addiction.

So what can we do to right the ship before we sink even further into debt and economic turmoil?

We stop spending money we don't have and we put in place measures that promote long-term economic growth.

If we are going to grow our economy, we need to reform our tax code to get rid of unfair tax loopholes and lower tax rates, which will increase revenues to help pay down our debt and pay for government investment in critical infrastructure projects that will fix and improve our roads, railways, and runways.

We need to expand our global export opportunities so that manufacturers and businesses can benefit from increased and fair access to new and emerging markets. Since 95 percent of the world's consumer market is outside of the U.S., we need to focus on getting our products and services beyond our borders, boosting GDP and creating employment opportunities here at home.

In addition, we need to encourage the development of domestic sources of energy that will lower our dependence on foreign sources of energy and create the family-sustaining jobs available to us through investment in coal, natural gas, and other energy resources found right here in Pennsylvania and across the nation. The only thing standing in the way of increased domestic energy production is government over-regulation.

The solutions are there but the political will is not. Some care more about getting reelected than getting our nation fixed for the future.

For the sake of our nation, and for the future of our children and grandchildren, we need to come together in a bipartisan fashion to address the significant economic challenges before us. One political party and one chamber of Congress cannot do this alone. Hard decisions need to be made and change, real change, needs to take place.

I encourage everyone to get involved and start demanding accountability from Washington. Call Senator Casey and ask him why his party's Senate leadership has failed to pass a budget in more than 800 days. Call the White House and ask why President Obama has also failed to produce a budget in writing, instead only offering speeches that cannot be scored and cannot be seriously considered by the Congress.

This is your government. This is our nation. And it's our children's and grandchildren's future on the line.

As always, my staff and I are available to you and we welcome your calls and comments

Sincerely,

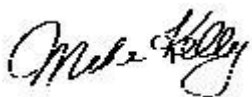
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.



Photo: Rep. Mike Kelly speaks in front of the U.S. Capitol during a press conference on the Budget Control Act.

[CLICK HERE to Play Video of the Press Conference](#)

Budget Control Act of 2011

It's been said that a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.

It's also been said that to reach our nation's \$14.3 trillion debt, it would take a pile of \$1,000 bills climbing nearly a thousand miles into the sky.

Tackling our nation's debt is going to require a steady and concerted campaign against the wasteful spending that got us to this point, as well as the implementation of economic policies that will lead to long-term economic growth.

One small, yet significant, step in that campaign came with this month's passage of the Budget Control Act of 2011. While it was not what my Republican colleagues, credit rating agencies, most Americans, and I thought was enough to address our debt problems, it was the only compromise President Obama and Senate Democrats

were willing to make to avoid a default on America's credit without raising job-destroying taxes on American families and businesses.

In addition to avoiding a default, the Budget Control Act included spending cuts larger than the increase in the debt limit, real caps to restrain future spending, and a pathway toward a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which is the only permanent protection the American people will have against future reckless spending in Washington.

Again, this bill was not perfect, but with control of only one-half of one-third of the federal government, this was all House Republicans could do. That's not an excuse, that's the reality.

I co-sponsored and the House passed the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act, which would have avoided not only a default on our debt, but a credit downgrade since it included the more than \$4 trillion in cuts and entitlement reform measures that Standard and Poor's said was needed to keep our AAA rating. Unfortunately, the president vowed to veto it, and the Senate refused to vote on it.

Both political parties are responsible for decades of fiscal mismanagement that has led to our record debt, and both political parties are responsible for getting us out of it.

Our challenge has come and the moment is now. While some in Washington are working to fundamentally transform America, a growing movement throughout America is fighting to fundamentally restore her, drawing attention to the principles of limited government, individual liberty, and free market enterprise on which our nation was founded.

It will be a fight, no doubt, but there's no greater nation to fight for and no greater cause than the future of our children and grandchildren. No matter how long the journey.

Poll question: Do you think we should amend the Constitution to require Congress and the President to balance the federal budget? [Click here to answer!](#)

Representative Kelly's Upcoming Public Event Schedule

August 30th

Crawford County- Meadville Office Open House

Tuesday, August 30th

9:00 A.M. -10:00 A.M.

Meadville Satellite Office

908 Diamond Park Square

Meadville, PA

Second Floor Office

*** Media Availability from 10:10 – 10:20 a.m.

September 1st

Erie County Mornings with Mike Coffee

Thursday, September 1st

9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.

208 East Bayfront Parkway

Erie, PA

Second Floor Conference Room

Erie County Mornings with Mike Coffee

Thursday, September 1st

11:00 A.M. - NOON

208 East Bayfront Parkway

Erie, PA

Second Floor Conference Room

*** Media Availability at 10:30 in between events

Mercer County "Ask Mike" Forum

Thursday, September 1st

2:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

Grove City College

Carnegie Alumni Center

260 South Broad Street

Grove City, PA

*** Media Availability at 3:30 immediately **after** event

Butler County "Ask Mike" Forum

Thursday, September 1st

5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Butler Community College

Founder's Hall

107 College Drive

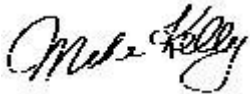
Butler, PA 16002

*** Media Availability at 5:15 immediately **before** event

Remembering our Fallen Soldiers

On August 6, 30 American troops died in a helicopter crash in eastern Afghanistan. It was the deadliest single loss for U.S. forces in the nearly 10-year Afghan war.

Please keep all of our fallen soldiers and their families in your thoughts and prayers. May we always remain grateful for and humbled by their sacrifice and service to our nation.



Mike Kelly

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