

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Colleague:

Congress is facing a crucial decision this week on how to keep our government operating while trying to reduce our \$1.5 trillion deficit for Fiscal Year 2011.

As members who experienced the federal government shutdowns in 1995 and 1996, we are acutely aware of how those events angered the American people. We have urged our leaders to do whatever they can to avoid this kind of disruption again.

We commend Speaker Boehner for his extraordinary efforts to find a way to keep our government operating, even as we do our best to rein in the runaway spending that has brought record deficits. Most Americans will agree that our Republican leaders have worked hard to find a solution to this crisis.

At the same time, we are dismayed by the cynical response from Senate Majority Leader Reid and his lieutenants. They have never once put forward a plan of how they would cut spending, and in fact have not passed a single bill that would fund the government for the rest of the fiscal year.

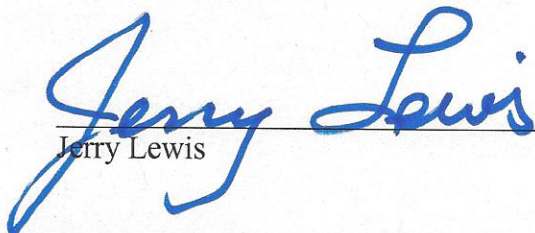
Instead, all we have received is the kind of calculated partisan rhetoric that reporters heard Sen. Chuck Schumer urge his colleagues to use on a conference call. Schumer made it clear that the Senate Democratic leadership is not interested in finding a solution, but is intent on forcing a shutdown in the hopes of scoring partisan political points.

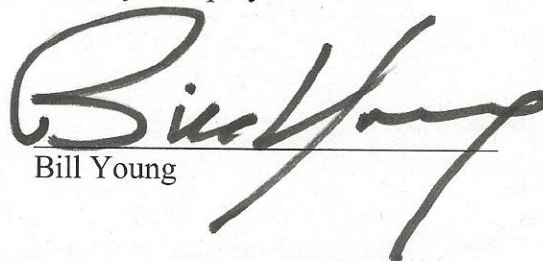
We hate the idea of a shutdown – we really don't want to go through that again.

But even more, we hate the idea of leaving trillions and trillions of dollars in debt to our children and grandchildren. We cannot continue a course that will allow government to eat away our economy.

So we say to Sen. Reid and Sen. Schumer: Cutting spending is not a "Tea Party" thing. It is not a "hard-core conservative freshman" thing. It is the kind of responsible action that all Americans have elected us to do in Congress.

Therefore, we pledge to back our leaders in doing the responsible thing and reducing current spending by the largest possible amount. We will cast our votes in support, in the firm belief that Americans will see the Senate's refusal to act as the cynical policy that it is.


Jerry Lewis


Bill Young

Don Young
Don Young

Elton Gallegly
Elton Gallegly

Wally Herger
Wally Herger

John Duncan
John Duncan

Dana Rohrabacher
Dana Rohrabacher

Dan Burton
Dan Burton

Howard "Buck" McKeon
Howard "Buck" McKeon

Ken Calvert
Ken Calvert

Dana Rohrabacher
