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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20515-6015

November 18, 2013

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WILLIAM E. SMITH
CLERK AND STAFF DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE:
(202) 225-2771

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chairman
Budget Committee
207 CHOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Budget Committee
SD-624
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member
Budget Committee
B71 CHOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
Budget Committee
SD-624
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Ryan, Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Sessions, and Ranking Member Van Hollen:

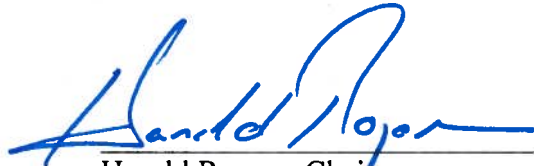
We call on the Budget conference to reach an agreement on the FY 2014 and 2015 spending caps as soon as possible to allow the appropriations process to move forward to completion by the January 15 expiration of the current short-term Continuing Resolution. We urge you to redouble your efforts toward that end and report common, topline levels for both the House and Senate before the Thanksgiving recess, or by December 2 at the latest.

If a timely agreement is not reached, the likely alternatives could have extremely damaging repercussions. First, the failure to reach a budget deal to allow Appropriations to assemble funding for FY 2014 will reopen the specter of another government shutdown. Second, it will reopen the probability of governance by continuing resolution, based on prior year outdated spending needs and priorities, dismissing in one fell swoop all of the work done by the Congress to enact appropriations bills for FY 2014 that reflect the will of Congress and the people we represent. Third, the current sequester and the upcoming "Second Sequester" in January would result in more indiscriminate across the board reductions that could have negative consequences on critically important federal programs, especially our national defense.

In addition, failure to agree on a common spending cap for FY 2015 will guarantee another year of confusion.

The American people deserve a detailed budget blueprint that makes rational and intelligent choices on funding by their elected representatives, not by a meat ax. We urge you to come together and decide on a common discretionary spending topline for both FY 2014 and FY 2015 as quickly as possible to empower our Committee, and the Congress as a whole, to make the responsible spending decisions that we have been elected to make.

Sincerely,



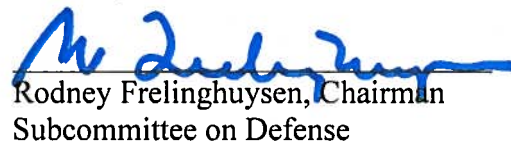
Harold Rogers, Chairman
Committee on Appropriations



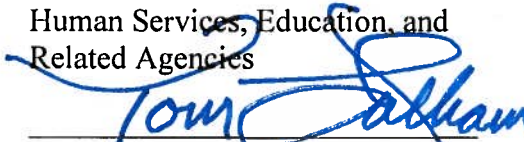
Frank R. Wolf, Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies



Jack Kingston, Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and
Related Agencies



Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense



Tom Latham, Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, and
Housing and Urban Development, and
Related Agencies



Robert B. Aderholt, Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, Food and Drug
Administration, and Related Agencies



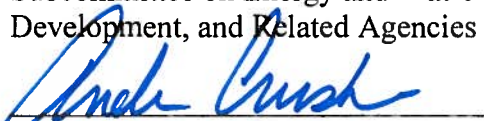
Kay Granger, Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
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Michael K. Simpson, Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Water
Development, and Related Agencies



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Subcommittee on Military
Construction, Veterans Affairs, and
Related Agencies



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Subcommittee on Financial Services and
General Government



John R. Carter, Chairman
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Security



Ken Calvert, Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment,
and Related Agencies



Tom Cole, Chairman
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch