March 9, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20502-0001

Dear President Obama,

One year ago, my colleagues and I sent you the enclosed letter asking that you take action on recommendations made by the Government Accountability Office regarding duplicative and wasteful federal programs.

We never received a reply.

As it would happen, exactly one year later, the Government Accountability Office has produced an updated version of that report highlighting the same high levels of waste and duplication in government spending. The report again shines a light on tens of billions worth of taxpayer dollars that could be saved each year and aren't.

The fact that your administration feels no responsibility to respond to the concerns of the people's representatives gives us pause, but far worse is that your apparent reason for not responding is that your administration believes current efforts are sufficient in addressing the problem. Clearly they are not.

On February 28th, 2012, Danny Werfel wrote on the White House blog that "nearly eighty percent of the issue areas for which GAO recommended action last year, and more than three-quarters of the recommendations for Executive Branch actions associated with those areas were addressed in some way."

What precise set of actions does the phrase, "addressed in some way" mean? And more to the point, what concrete results came of those actions? If the "issue areas" were addressed to your satisfaction, why does the GAO report for 2012 highlight the same problems?

Finally, in closing, we want to acknowledge the role that Congress plays in this effort as well. The House, for its part, has put forward a budget proposal and will do so again this year. We cannot move forward alone, however. Perhaps it goes without saying, but the United States Senate has refused to put forward a budget for several years now – a document that by its very definition is a statement of priorities for the government and a

comprehensive fiscal plan on those priorities. What steps have you publicly taken to encourage Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a member of your own party, to fulfill the Senate's obligation to the American taxpayers?

You certainly did not use your recent State of the Union address to that end, despite the fact that you coincidentally delivered it on the 1,000th day without a Senate budget. And when asked what your opinion was of the Senate's persistence in not passing a budget, your Press Secretary offered little on your behalf.

Mr. President, you are the leader of this country. And while we fully recognize that the United States government is the first organization you have ever run, and we further recognize that it is an especially large and complicated enterprise, token gestures, symbolic initiatives, and vague assertions of action will not produce the results that the American people expect. To put it plainly, amidst the lack of action, the lack of decisiveness, and the lack of response, when precisely, after more than three years already in office, are you going to begin taking your management responsibilities to the American people seriously?

Sincerely,
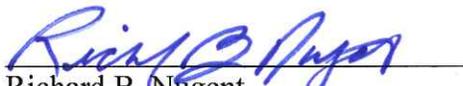
Richard B. Nugent
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger
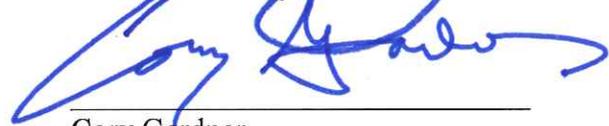Member of Congress

Blaine Leutkemeyer
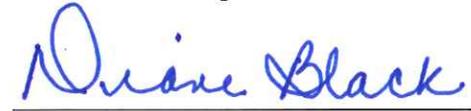Member of Congress
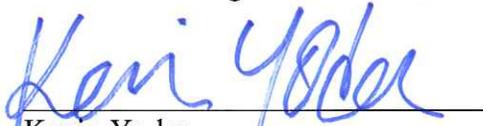
Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress

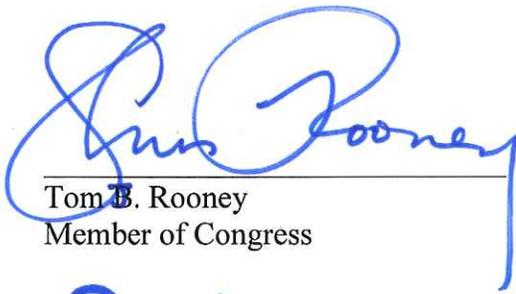Paul C. Broun
Member of Congress

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress
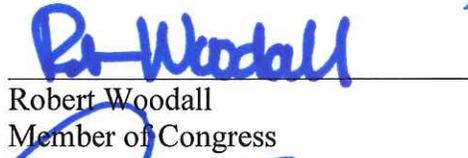
Pat Tiberi
Member of Congress

Brian P. Bilbray
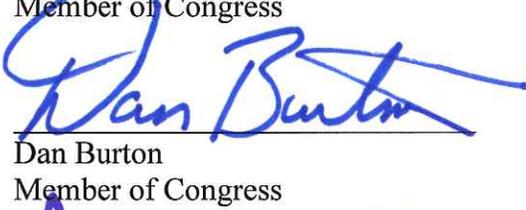Member of Congress

Cory Gardner
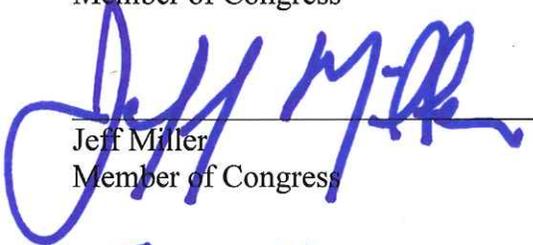Member of Congress

Diane Black
Member of Congress

Tom B. Rooney
Member of Congress

Robert Woodall
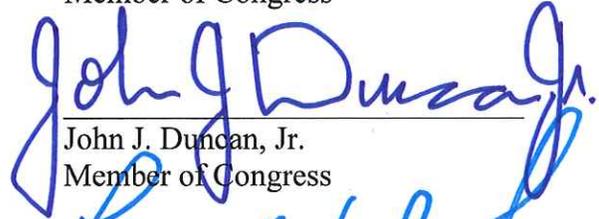Member of Congress

Dan Burton
Member of Congress

Jeff Miller
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Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress

John J. Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress

Lynn A. Westmoreland
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress