

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

October 18, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Eric Cantor  
Majority Leader  
H-329, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Democratic Whip  
H-148, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Whip  
H-107, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Larson  
Democratic Caucus Chair  
1420, Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling  
Republican Conference Chair  
202A, Cannon HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker, Leader Pelosi, Leader Cantor, Rep. Hoyer, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Larson, Rep. Hensarling:

We are writing to you as members of the Fix Congress Now Caucus to recommend improvements to the federal budget process in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. We believe that changes to House rules can improve the structural process by which the federal budget is drafted, debated, and voted upon. As the rules package for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress is produced, we hope you will consider the following recommendations.

For the third consecutive fiscal year, both chambers failed to agree upon a concurrent budget resolution, and we are once again funding the government under a short-term continuing resolution. This is an irresponsible way to fund our nation's government and is compounding uncertainty during our economic recovery.

In order to strengthen our budget process and ensure Members of Congress complete one of the most important jobs that we are sent here to do, we recommend that the House of Representatives require a 3/5 vote to waive Budget Act points of order dealing with adjournment. Sections 309 and 310(f) of the Congressional Budget Act prohibit consideration of certain adjournment resolutions until budget process requirements are met. Requiring 3/5 support to waive those requirements will align the House with Senate rules and ensure that we do not adjourn as a governing body until our budgetary work is done.

We also request that the House hold committee hearings on the following changes to the budget process in order to study the potential impact of these changes, and to solicit input from our colleagues:

- Amending the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to require that the budget be a joint resolution – passed by both chambers, and signed into law by the President – rather than a concurrent resolution. This will ensure that both branches work together to get our fiscal house in order while avoiding the use of deeming resolutions that have become a far too common way of shirking our fiscal responsibilities.
- Amending the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to restructure the budget as a biennial joint resolution rather than a one-year concurrent budget resolution. This change will allow Congress to fully consider the budget and appropriations process, while leaving the off-year available for oversight and other legislative priorities.

We'd appreciate your consideration of these requests, and are available to discuss this matter further or testify during the compilation of the rules package for the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. We believe that, with these changes to the rules and to the form of the budget itself, Congress can do what it was elected by the people to do: Govern.

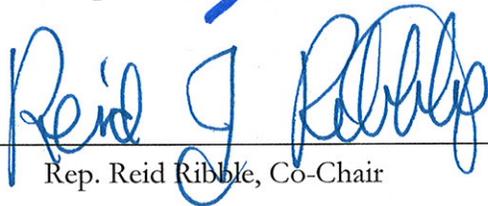
Sincerely,



Rep. Scott Rigell, Co-Chair



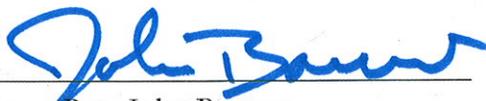
Rep. Jim Cooper, Co-Chair



Rep. Reid Ribble, Co-Chair



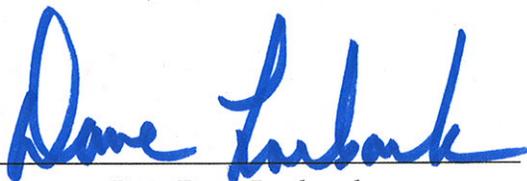
Rep. Kurt Schrader, Co-Chair



Rep. John Barrow



Rep. Diane Black



Rep. Dave Loebsack



Rep. Joe Walsh

Cc:

The Honorable Tom Price

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers

The Honorable Xavier Becerra