

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

July 13, 2011

Majority Leader Harry Reid  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Reid:

As the House of Representatives works through the Appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2012, we are encouraged by the progress that the House has made – both in the Appropriations Committee and on the House floor. Unlike the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, we have fulfilled our constitutional responsibilities by passing a budget, one that reduces spending, creates jobs, reins in cost-driving programs, and ultimately eliminates the debt. We have shown our strong commitment to set the nation's course towards fiscal stability, and to do so in a responsible time frame.

Yet, as we look ahead, we are deeply concerned with the lack of progress in the Senate. As Majority Leader, you have not brought any of the appropriations bills passed by the House this year up for consideration. While the House is on track to complete all 12 appropriations bills prior to the start of the fiscal year, the Senate has failed to produce a budget or consider these appropriations bills, which will inevitably result in yet another Continuing Resolution– perhaps even the threat of a government shutdown that we experienced earlier this year. Given that pervasive uncertainty is holding back job creation, we believe a change in your summer calendar is necessary.

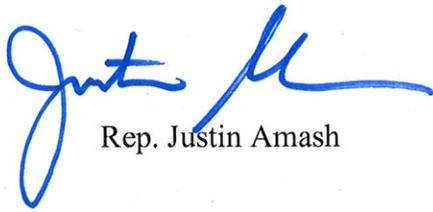
As it stands now, the Senate will recess during the month of August and reconvene on September 6 - just over three weeks before the fiscal year begins. At the pace the Senate is progressing, this is not nearly enough time for Congress to consider and, ideally, pass the bills prior to the start of the fiscal year. Therefore, we ask that you keep the Senate in session throughout August so that you can pass a budget and complete the pending appropriations bills sent to you from the House. We stand ready to stay in session if necessary.

While being with constituents is absolutely essential to providing effective representation, the profound fiscal challenges facing our country call for timely, decisive action. The roadblock is clearly the Senate. We encourage you to keep the Senate in session in August, which would show that the Senate schedule reflects the challenges facing our country. It would also be a clear, and we believe, welcomed signal to the American people that the nation's leaders are wisely leading America to a stronger fiscal path.

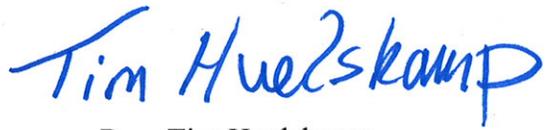
Sincerely,

  
Rep. Scott Rigell

  
Rep. Reid Ribble



Rep. Justin Amash



Rep. Tim Huelskamp



Rep. Larry Bucshon



Rep. Bill Huizenga



Rep. Scott DesJarlais



Rep. Randy Hultgren



Rep. Jeff Duncan



Rep. Mike Kelly



Rep. Renee L. Ellmers



Rep. James Lankford



Rep. Blake Farenthold



Rep. Billy Long



Rep. Michael G. Fitzpatrick



Rep. Mick Mulvaney



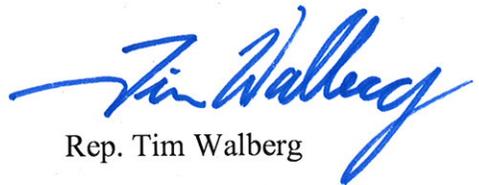
Rep. Tim Griffin



Rep. Mike Pompeo



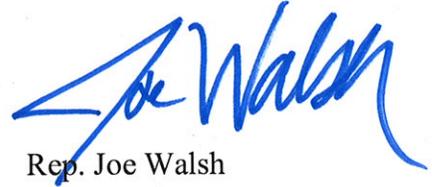
Rep. Todd Rokita



Rep. Tim Walberg



Rep. Austin Scott



Rep. Joe Walsh



Rep. Tim Scott



Rep. Allen B. West



Rep. Steve Stivers



Rep. Rob Woodall



Rep. Paul Gosar



Rep. Todd C. Young