

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4602

September 18, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Eric Cantor
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker,

There is universal agreement that funding the federal government with Continuing Resolutions (CRs) damages the economy and our nation's military, yet they are now seen as acceptable if not inevitable. I reject the pervasive, false premise that we are stuck with CRs. Though it represents an untraditional approach, I believe that the CR that will come to the floor on Friday is a perfect legislative vehicle to advance our shared goal of returning to regular order.

I propose and strongly urge you to incorporate the attached language into the CR. This language would amend current House Rules to prohibit the House of Representatives from adjourning or entering "pro forma" session for more than five days (with exceptions made for national holidays and weekends) unless and until it has passed: 1) a budget resolution, and 2) all twelve appropriations bills.

Linking the House calendar to passage of all twelve appropriations bills resonates deeply with our Conference and the American people. Yet we know that simply restating the importance of returning to regular order is not sufficient. A force of some type, wisely applied, is required. Including the language attached would be a meaningful step forward in changing this institution and returning to regular order.

Does the proposal break with House tradition? *Absolutely!*

I am unapologetic in calling for our Conference to take bold steps, including the one offered here, to demonstrate to the country that Republicans not only have the right *ideas* on how to improve Congress, but we also have the *courage* to follow through. The American people are not only ready for change, they rightly demand it.

Change is never easy, but the need for Congress to change has never been as clear as it is now. I respectfully submit that now is the time for you, as our leadership, to make your imprint on setting Congress on a better path.

Thank you for your consideration of my proposed modification to the CR, and for your service and leadership.

Yours in Freedom,



Scott Rigell

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(Original Signature of Member)

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. _____

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to prohibit the House from adjourning or convening in a pro forma session for a period of more than 5 days during a fiscal year unless the House has adopted a concurrent resolution on the budget for such fiscal year and has approved each regular appropriations bill for the funding of the operations of the government for the entire fiscal year.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. RIGELL submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to prohibit the House from adjourning or convening in a pro forma session for a period of more than 5 days during a fiscal year unless the House has adopted a concurrent resolution on the budget for such fiscal year and has approved each regular appropriations bill for the funding of the operations of the government for the entire fiscal year.

1 *Resolved*, That clause 12 of rule I of the Rules of the
2 House of Representatives is amended by adding at the end
3 the following new paragraph:

4 “(e)(1) The House may not adjourn or convene solely
5 in a pro forma session for a period of more than 5 days
6 (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, except
7 when the House is in session on such a day) during a
8 fiscal year unless, at the time the period of adjournment
9 or the period of pro forma sessions begins, the House—

10 “(A) has adopted a concurrent resolution on the
11 budget for such fiscal year; and

12 “(B) has approved each regular appropriation
13 bill for such fiscal year.

14 “(2) In this paragraph, the term ‘regular appropria-
15 tion bill’ means any annual appropriation bill making ap-
16 propriations, otherwise making funds available, or grant-
17 ing authority, for any of the following categories of
18 projects and activities:

19 “(A) Agriculture, rural development, Food and
20 Drug Administration, and related agencies pro-
21 grams.

22 “(B) The Departments of Commerce, Justice,
23 Science, and related agencies.

24 “(C) The Department of Defense.

1 “(D) Energy and water development, and re-
2 lated agencies.

3 “(E) Financial services and general govern-
4 ment.

5 “(F) The Department of Homeland Security.

6 “(G) The Department of the Interior, environ-
7 ment, and related agencies.

8 “(H) The Departments of Labor, Health and
9 Human Services, and Education, and related agen-
10 cies.

11 “(I) The legislative branch.

12 “(J) Military construction and veterans affairs.

13 “(K) The Department of State, foreign oper-
14 ations, and related programs.

15 “(L) The Departments of Transportation,
16 Housing and Urban Development, and related agen-
17 cies.”.