

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

December 4, 2012

The Honorable John A. Boehner, Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Majority Leader Reid  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Leader McConnell  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Pelosi, Majority Leader Reid, and Leader McConnell:

Decades of efforts to slow the growth of government and rein in the rapid rise of the federal debt have failed. We need no more evidence of this than the more than \$16 trillion that we as a Nation now owe. It has become obvious to us that this is the direct result of the absence of any permanent mechanism to restrain the size and scope of Government. Well-intentioned measures, such as Gramm-Rudman in 1985 and Statutory PAYGO in 2010, were put in place with the goal of providing checks on spending increases, but Congress has easily sidestepped them time and again.

We believe it is critical to our Nation's future that any legislation from current "fiscal cliff" negotiations include a permanent limitation on the ability of Congress to spend money we don't have. At a time when the U.S. treasury borrows thirty-one cents of every dollar spent, we need real reform that cannot be dodged, delayed, or punted to future Congresses. We believe that a Balanced Budget Amendment, or other constitutional amendment that permanently limits the ability of Congress to add to the Nation's debt, is the only way to truly restore fiscal certainty to job creators, to the global marketplace, and most of all, to the American people.

We urge the leaders of the House and the Senate seeking a solution to the so-called fiscal cliff to include as part of any deal a permanent and long-term solution to the Nation's spiraling debt.

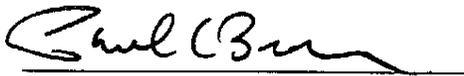
Sincerely,



Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks  
Member of Congress



Paul Broun, M.D.  
Member of Congress



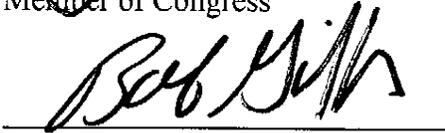
Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



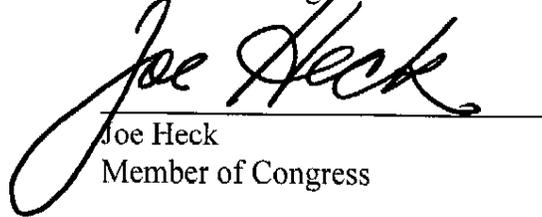
John Culberson  
Member of Congress



Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



Joe Heck  
Member of Congress