

September 30, 2013

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS:

The undersigned 251 organizations urge the House of Representatives and the United States Senate to pass a Continuing Resolution to ensure the uninterrupted funding of the federal government into the next fiscal year and to act expeditiously to raise the nation's debt limit.

We appreciate fully the importance of restraining federal spending, both discretionary spending and mandatory spending, to reduce federal budget deficits, contain the growth of federal debt, and thereby re-establish fiscal discipline in the near-term and for the long haul. However, with the U.S. economy continuing to underperform, the federal government needs to maintain its normal operations pending a successful outcome of broader budgetary reforms. It is not in the best interest of the employers, employees or the American people to risk a government shutdown that will be economically disruptive and create even more uncertainties for the U.S. economy.

Likewise, we respectfully urge the Congress to raise the debt ceiling in a timely manner and remove any threat to the full faith and credit of the United States government.

However, entitlement spending remains the main driver of these deficits and high debt levels and must be addressed. Today we spend \$1.6 trillion on just three of the nation's entitlement programs – Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. In 10 years, the total price for these programs will soar to \$3 trillion.

Spending on entitlement programs and interest on the debt currently represent 65% of total government outlays and already exceed all federal income tax revenues collected. In 10 short years these payments are projected to reach 76% of government spending. During this decade and the next without reform, entitlement spending will rise more rapidly as the number of Americans 65 and older will jump by 70% while those of working age will increase by less than 7%. The biggest threat imaginable to our entitlement programs is to do nothing at all.

As the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) just reported (September 12):

- “Historical *and* projected growth of federal spending relative to the size of the economy can be attributed almost entirely to growth in spending for a few large programs—namely, Social Security and the major health care programs.”
- “The fundamental federal budgetary challenge has hardly been addressed.”
- “The largest federal programs are becoming much more expensive because of the retirement of the baby boomers and the rising costs of health care.”

Congress cannot continue “kicking the can down the road;” it's time to take corrective action to address the unaffordable path of entitlement spending, to stabilize federal finances and to undertake fundamental tax reform to strengthen the American economy.

We urge the Congress to act promptly to pass a Continuing Resolution to fund the government and to raise the debt ceiling, and then to return to work on these other vital issues.

Aeronautical Repair Station Association  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
Air Conditioning Contractors of America  
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute  
Airlines for America  
Airports Council International - North America  
American Apparel & Footwear Association  
American Beverage Association  
American Coatings Association  
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association  
American Council of Engineering Companies  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Forest & Paper Association  
American Gas Association  
American Hotel & Lodging Association  
American Insurance Association  
American International Automobile Dealers Association  
American Iron and Steel Institute  
American Land Title Association  
American Rental Association  
American Road & Transportation Builders Association  
American Supply Association  
American Trucking Associations  
AMT - The Association For Manufacturing Technology  
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Arizona Small Business Association  
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries of Arkansas  
Arlington Chamber of Commerce – TX  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
Associated General Contractors of America  
Associated Oregon Industries  
Association Forum of Chicagoland – IL  
Association of Equipment Manufacturers  
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers  
Association of Washington Business  
Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce – IL  
Austin Area Chamber of Commerce – TX  
Austin Chamber of Commerce – TX  
Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association  
Baltimore Washington Corridor Chamber – MD  
Barrow County Chamber of Commerce – GA  
Batavia Chamber of Commerce – IL  
Bismarck-Mandan Chamber of Commerce – ND  
Brainerd Lakes Chamber – MN  
Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce – AZ  
Buffalo Niagara Partnership – NY

Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International  
Business Council of Alabama  
Business Roundtable  
Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce – NC  
California Chamber of Commerce  
California Manufacturers & Technology Association  
Carolinas Food Industry Council  
Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce – CA  
Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce – NV  
Central LA Chamber of Commerce – LA  
Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County – AL  
Chamber of Commerce of the Mid-Ohio Valley – WV  
Chamber Southwest Louisiana  
Chambers of Commerce Alliance of Ventura & Santa Barbara Counties – CA  
Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce – SC  
Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce - IL  
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce – IL  
Connecticut Business & Industry Association  
Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA)  
Construction Industry Round Table  
Consumer Bankers Association  
Corn Refiners Association  
Cushing Chamber of Commerce & Industry – OK  
Dakota County Regional Chamber of Commerce – MN  
Dallas Regional Chamber – TX  
Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce – OH  
DC Chamber of Commerce  
Delaware State Chamber of Commerce  
Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce – CO  
Destination Marketing Association International  
Edison Electric Institute  
Electronics Representatives Association  
Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership – PA  
Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce – VA  
Fairmont Area Chamber of Commerce – MN  
Fall River Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. – MA  
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association  
Financial Services Forum  
Florida Chamber of Commerce  
Fort Madison Partners – IA  
Fremont Chamber of Commerce – CA  
Fullerton Chamber of Commerce – CA  
Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce – NJ  
Georgia Chamber of Commerce  
Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce – NM  
Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce – CA

Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce – TX  
Greater Boca Raton Chamber of Commerce – FL  
Greater Des Moines Partnership – IA  
Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce – NC  
Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce – TX  
Greater Homestead/Florida City Chamber of Commerce – FL  
Greater Iowa City Area Home Builders Association – IA  
Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce – TX  
Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce – PA & NJ  
Greater North Dakota Chamber  
Greater Oak Brook Chamber of Commerce – IL  
Greater Oro Valley Chamber of Commerce – AZ  
Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce – AZ  
Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce – NC  
Greater Reading Chamber of Commerce & Industry – PA  
Greater Shreveport Chamber of Commerce – LA  
Greater Spokane Incorporated – WA  
Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce – KS  
Guitar & Accessories Marketing Association (GAMA)  
Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce – PA  
Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC – PA  
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton Chamber of Commerce – SC  
Hudson County Chamber of Commerce – NJ  
Illinois Manufacturers' Association  
Independent Electrical Contractors (IEC)  
Industrial Packaging Alliance of North America  
Industrial Supply Association  
International Dairy Foods Association  
International Foodservice Distributors Association  
International Franchise Association  
International Housewares Association  
International Warehouse Logistics Association  
Investment Company Institute  
Iowa Association of Business and Industry  
Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry – IL  
Junction City Area Chamber of Commerce – KS  
Kalispell Chamber of Commerce – MT  
Kansas Grain and Feed Association  
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce  
Kingsport Area Chamber of Commerce – TN  
Lincoln Chamber of Commerce – NE  
Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce – AR  
Longview Chamber of Commerce – TX  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce – CA  
Lubbock Chamber of Commerce – TX  
Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS)

Manhattan Chamber of Commerce – NY  
Manufacturers Alliance for Productivity and Innovation  
Marana Chamber of Commerce – AZ  
Marshalltown Area Chamber of Commerce – IA  
Maryland Chamber of Commerce  
Maui Chamber of Commerce – HI  
Metal Powder Industries Federation  
Metro South Chamber of Commerce – MA  
MetroHartford Alliance – CT  
MetroWest Chamber of Commerce – MA  
Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce – MN  
Missouri Association of Manufacturers  
Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce – AL  
Montana Chamber of Commerce  
Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce – CA  
Monticello Chamber of Commerce & Industry – MN  
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association  
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce – IL  
National Asphalt Pavement Association  
National Association of Chemical Distributors  
National Association of Government Guaranteed Lenders  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts  
National Association of Trailer Manufacturers  
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors  
National Beer Wholesalers Association (NBWA)  
National Black Chamber of Commerce®  
National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)  
National Electrical Manufacturers Association  
National Federation of Independent Business  
National Grocers Association  
National Marine Distributors Association (NMDA)  
National Marine Manufacturers Association  
National Parking Association  
National Restaurant Association  
National Retail Federation  
National Roofing Contractors Association  
National Society of Professional Surveyors  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
National Utility Contractors Association  
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce  
New Orleans Chamber of Commerce – LA  
Non-Ferrous Founders' Society  
North American Equipment Dealers Association

North Carolina Chamber  
North Carolina Retail Merchants Association  
North Star Consulting Group  
Northeast Pennsylvania Manufacturers and Employers Association  
Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce  
Northern Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce  
Northumberland County Chamber of Commerce – VA  
Northwest Food Processors Association  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
Ohio Chamber of Commerce  
Orange County Business Council – CA  
Orlando, Inc. (Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce) – FL  
Outdoor Power Equipment and Engine Service Association (OPEESA)  
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute  
Overland Park Chamber of Commerce – KS  
Oxnard Chamber of Commerce – CA  
Palm Desert Area Chamber of Commerce – CA  
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce and Civic Association – CA  
Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry  
Petroleum Marketers Association of America  
Port Hueneme Chamber of Commerce – CA  
Portland Cement Association  
Prince William Chamber of Commerce – VA  
Retail Industry Leaders Association  
Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce – MN  
Rogers – Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce – AR  
Salt Lake Chamber – UT  
San Antonio Chamber of Commerce – TX  
Santa Clarita Valley Chamber of Commerce – CA  
Schuylkill Chamber of Commerce – PA  
Secondary Materials and Recycled Textiles Association (SMART)  
Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association  
Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce – AZ  
Smugglers' Notch Area Chamber of Commerce – VT  
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates (SOCMA)  
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce – CA  
South Carolina Retail Association  
Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce – MO  
St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce – MN  
St. Tammany West Chamber of Commerce – LA  
Summit Chamber of Commerce – CO  
Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber – WA  
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry  
The Aluminum Association  
The Association for Hose & Accessories Distribution  
The Business Council of New York State, Inc.

The Chamber of Commerce serving Johnson City-Jonesborough-Washington County (TN)  
The Council of Industry of Southeastern New York  
The Ohio Manufacturers' Association  
The Real Estate Roundtable  
Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce – NY  
Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce – CA  
Travel Goods Association  
Tucson Metro Chamber – AZ  
Tulsa Regional Chamber – OK  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
U.S. Travel Association  
United States Telecom Association  
Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA) – CA  
Van Buren Chamber of Commerce – AR  
Virginia Chamber of Commerce  
Washington Retail Association  
West Virginia Manufacturers Association  
Window and Door Manufacturers Association  
Wisconsin Grocers Association  
Woodworking Machinery Industry Association  
Yuma County Chamber of Commerce – AZ