



February 5, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to take up House GOP Leader John Boehner's and GOP Whip Eric Cantor's offer to help you force a vote on your proposed spending reductions and terminations.

In their letter to you, Leader Boehner and Whip Cantor alluded to the possibility of invoking the process under the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974, which would allow a minority of the House to bring the discretionary program terminations and reductions contained in your budget to the floor.

According to the stipulations of the Act, you can send up in the form of a discrete, specific message asking that the funds be rescinded. One-fifth of the House can bring a motion to discharge spending reduction and rescission proposals if the relevant committee of jurisdiction fails to act on the proposals. While not agreeing with all your suggested cuts and terminations, Leader Boehner and Whip Cantor have vowed that they will introduce each of your proposals as stand-alone legislation, and we urge you to take them up on their offer.

Taxpayers are fed up, and they have made their dissatisfaction clear over the course of the past few months – in town hall meetings, protest marches, and recent elections. As they are struggling to make ends meet and are forced to tighten their belts, they demand that their government do the same. Unfortunately, however, rather than seeing their elected officials work on meaningful legislation to reduce federal spending, taxpayers have had to witness drastic increases in the same, and just this week yet another massive hike in the federal debt ceiling.

The crisis is now – and so is the time to act. While much more remains to be done, your termination and reduction proposals are a first step in the right direction. Consequently, we urge you to prioritize your spending cut proposals and work with Leader Boehner and Whip Cantor to ensure that they be debated by Congress in an expedited manner.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

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