



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

December 15, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Office of the Speaker  
H-232 Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

Thank you for our recent discussions regarding the size and composition of committees for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.

I have proposed we begin the new Congress with a significant reduction in the size of the Committees. It is my strong belief that making Congress work better – and beginning to address the significant challenges facing our nation – requires tough choices. It's unfair of us to ask Americans to do more with less if Congress isn't willing to tighten its own belt first.

Americans are demanding smaller, more accountable government, and the incoming House majority is ready to lead by example. Accordingly, in addition to the five percent cut I am directing be made in all leadership and committee budgets and member allowances for the coming year, I am cutting 76 total Committee seats from the majority, and am proposing that the Democratic minority cut eight (8).

These committee size reductions are not merely symbolic. As you and I have discussed, they will reduce situations in which members are unable to fulfill their committee work because they sit on multiple committees with overlapping schedules, making the committee process work more efficiently and effectively and allowing the House to better fulfill its Constitutional responsibility to provide oversight of federal programs and expenditures. By addressing the runaway growth of committees that has taken place under majorities Democratic and Republican alike over the course of many years, we can better serve the American people, who are demanding better oversight, better legislation, and greater scrutiny of the way in which Washington spends taxpayers' money.

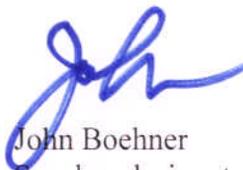
As the Democratic leader, you – not I – will make the call as to which members of the Democratic Caucus will be asked to serve and represent the Democratic Caucus on each committee. Since you will be making these decisions, the members of your caucus and the American people can be confident they will be made in a manner that treats the members of your caucus as fairly and equitably as possible. You recently demonstrated your leadership skills in securing a seat for Mr. Clyburn at your leadership table, and I'm certain you'll navigate this

responsibility with equal sensitivity to the desires of the public, the rules of the House, and the priorities of your Caucus.

While I respect your desire to add more committee seats, the new majority believes doing so would reduce the effectiveness of the reforms we are making to the committee structure in the House, which are already long overdue. It would come at the expense of the American people, whose desire for smaller, more accountable government has for too long taken a back seat to the internal processes and priorities of Congressional majorities. It is my deep belief that we must lead by example, and it begins with making tough choices that reflect those choices Americans beyond the Beltway are making in their lives every day.

Thank you for your leadership and your shared commitment to a House that better serves the American people.

Sincerely,



John Boehner  
Speaker-designate