

MEMO

To: House Republicans
From: Leader Boehner
Re: A Very Hot Summer
Date: 31 July 09

This is a time of anxiety and frustration for the American people, who've watched this year with mounting anger as Democratic-controlled Washington has chipped away at their freedom and squandered their hard-earned money on bigger government and special-interest payoffs. Americans' anger will be on full display in the weeks ahead as Members of Congress leave Washington and travel the nation listening to the voices of their constituents. There's a hunger out there for better solutions – real solutions that reflect the realities of life beyond the Washington Beltway; solutions that don't rely on bureaucrats, bailouts, and bigger government.

Together, you and I have stood tall for such better solutions. Since the moment I handed Nancy Pelosi the Speaker's gavel in January, we've advocated better solutions and challenged the Democratic majority's mistaken belief that we can borrow and spend our way back to prosperity.

Earlier this year, I began talking to you about the importance of winning the issues – one at a time – by standing up to Washington Democrats' big government agenda and showing the American people we'd do things differently. I also urged that we adopt a culture of “entrepreneurial insurgency” – using our individual creativity and the resources at our disposal, particularly “new media” tools such as Twitter, to communicate our better solutions directly to the American people. As we head home for August, let's take a step back and assess how we've done.

- **Where Are the Jobs?** In February, Democrats passed a trillion-dollar “stimulus” spending bill that no one read and the American people weren't given time to read. And even by the Obama Administration's own standards, the spending “stimulus” didn't work. It didn't keep unemployment below eight percent, “jolt” the economy, or create jobs “immediately,” all of which the Obama Administration promised. In fact, we've lost three million jobs this year. My home state of Ohio has an unemployment rate of 11.2 percent, and it is headed toward 10 percent nationwide. With the “stimulus” spending bill, Democrats bet all the marbles that a massive increase in spending and borrowing would turn the economy around. You and I were willing to bet all the marbles against that, because we know small business, not government, is the engine of job creation in America. We stood united together against the pork-laden “stimulus” and stood united together for better solutions, including the alternative recovery plan Eric Cantor and I personally presented to President Obama at the White House in January. Six months later, with the national unemployment rate at 9.5 percent, Americans continue to gain confidence in our solutions to create jobs and strengthen the economy, with more than half of all Americans now convinced that Democratic policies will lead to more job-killing small business taxes.

- **Fiscally-Irresponsible Budget.** Instead of slowing the spending binge in Washington, Democrats stepped on the accelerator and haven't looked back. In April, Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Reid dutifully passed President Obama's fiscally irresponsible \$3.6 trillion budget that spends too much, taxes too much, and borrows too much – leaving the country drowning in red ink with trillion-dollar deficits as far as the eye can see. As we did on the trillion-dollar “stimulus,” we stood united against this Washington spending binge and offered a better solution – an alternative budget that would curb spending, create jobs by cutting taxes, and control the debt. Public opinion surveys now indicate that President Obama's out-of-control spending is a top concern for the American people. Those same polls show Republicans ahead of Democrats when Americans are asked who will do a better job of holding down wasteful spending.
- **Speaker Pelosi's National Energy Tax.** In June, Speaker Pelosi and her allies passed a national energy tax that will increase gasoline prices, raise electricity rates, and send American jobs overseas to countries like China and India. I stood on the House floor that night and read a 300-page amendment filed at 3:09 a.m. detailing how devastating it would be for middle-class families, small businesses, and our nation's farmers. We also continued to promote our *American Energy Act*, which is the best path to lower energy prices, more jobs, and a cleaner energy future. When Congress went home for the Independence Day break, the Democratic legislators who pushed the bill over the top got an earful from constituents outraged that their representatives supported this intrusive Big Government boondoggle. That reaction may pale in comparison with what Democrats will face when they return home for the next month...
- **Government Takeover of Health Care.** The health care legislation President Obama and Speaker Pelosi have attempted to ram through the House this summer may be the flashpoint for the anti-Washington anger that has been mounting since the beginning of the year. On the way out of town for August break, a Democratic leadership in disarray has attempted to cut deals that will bring a government takeover of health care to the House floor as early as September. Their plan, drafted solely by Democratic leaders and their special-interest industry partners while they denied the existence of the alternative [health care plan](#) Republicans put forth – will give Americans everything they don't want: higher health care costs, bureaucrats in charge of medical decisions, soaring deficits, and fewer jobs. And it denies them the real reforms they're seeking. Americans want lower costs, but surveys indicate Americans expect their costs to be driven higher than ever under the Democratic leadership's plan. Americans want better quality, but polls show they expect a government-run system to deny them better care. And Americans don't want to fund this \$1.6 trillion experiment with higher taxes, yet polls show Americans expect Washington to take more of their money to pay for the Democratic leadership's plan. Overall, a flurry of surveys over the last couple of days demonstrate that the American people now oppose the Democrats' government takeover of health care, and anytime the President talks about it, they like it even less. Our Democratic friends are going to feel the heat in August from the American people as a consequence of the massively flawed health care bill, and rightly so.

The 111th Congress to date has been a textbook illustration of what happens when a powerful majority tries to go it alone and write legislation that benefits its special-interest allies but is woefully out of step with the vast majority of Americans. It's also an example of what happens when Republicans set out to win the issues, stay unified, and offer better solutions every step of the way.

We've also put "entrepreneurial insurgency" into action. As *Politico* reported yesterday, Republicans now outnumber Democrats by a 2-to-1 margin in the use of Twitter. Earlier this year, the *Washington Times* reported that Congressional Republicans are dominating our Democratic counterparts in the use of YouTube as a messaging tool. The Democratic majority has noted our entrepreneurial insurgency and is scrambling to quash it – as evidenced by Speaker Pelosi's recent attempt to stop us from using the [chart](#) created by our colleague Kevin Brady (R-TX) and his team of policy professionals at the Joint Economic Committee (JEC) to illustrate the bureaucratic labyrinth that would be created by the Speaker's health care plan.

Our work is far from over, but thanks to our determination to go against the grain in Democratic-controlled Washington, we're leading on the issues that middle-class families and small businesses care about most. They have every right to ask, "Where are the jobs?" We're asking it with them. We're standing tall against the job-killing agenda of the Democratic majority, and standing up for better solutions that will help small businesses create jobs instead of driving our children and grandchildren into insurmountable debt.

Our mission now is to keep it going – and if what we've accomplished so far this year is any indication, I'm confident we will succeed. Thank you for your dedication to winning the issues, to entrepreneurial insurgency, and – most importantly – to offering better solutions for the American people rooted in our enduring principles of freedom and smaller government. These challenging times for our nation demand nothing less. It's an honor to serve with you and to serve the country we love. May God Bless you, your family, and your constituents as we head home for the August break. See you in September.