



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

May 4, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Three months ago, we sent you a [letter](#) inviting you to use your presidential rescissions authority to force votes in Congress on spending cuts, and pledged that if you do this, Republicans will stand with you and deliver the votes needed to ensure these spending cuts are debated in the House of Representatives. We are disappointed that to date, you and your administration have not responded to this opportunity for immediate bipartisan action to begin reducing spending in Washington.

The American people want less spending out of Washington. They recognize that out-of-control spending in Washington is hurting our nation's economy and impeding private-sector job creation across the United States, echoing a point made by more than 200 American economists in a recent letter to your administration. Unfortunately, Washington hasn't been listening.

Since the beginning of this year, the U.S. House of Representatives has considered 960 largely inconsequential bills under suspension of the rules, including 62 resolutions honoring sports teams and/or colleges, and 62 measures naming post offices and/or federal buildings, but no meaningful action has been taken to reduce net federal spending (the recent health care overhaul cut Medicare by hundreds of billions of dollars, and spent the money on a federal new entitlement program). Instead, government spending has continued to spiral out of control, and Congressional Democrats are now signaling they won't even pass a budget this year, instead opting to leave federal spending on autopilot for the coming year, complete with automatic spending increases that will put future generations of Americans even deeper in debt.

As we noted in our February 4 letter, as president, you have the authority under the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to submit specific proposals to Congress rescinding spending that is already in place. By exercising this authority, you can force Congress to debate, for example, the spending reductions you proposed as part of your budget proposal for the coming fiscal year. We have pledged that if you send such rescission proposals to Capitol Hill, we will

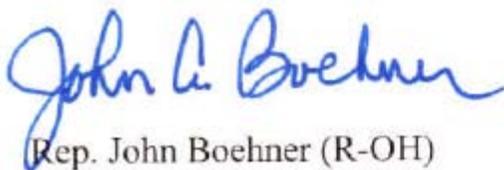
introduce each proposal as a stand-alone bill in the House and work with you to provide the 88 co-sponsors necessary to force floor votes on these rescission bills.

Since 1974, presidents have used rescissions authority to propose the elimination of approximately \$76 billion in unnecessary federal spending. Your budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year included a list of proposed spending cuts that could be enacted this spring through the rescissions process. In a [letter](#) we sent to you last June, we identified additional cuts that could be considered, totaling approximately \$375 billion.

Respectfully, Mr. President, if you have determined that you will not use your presidential rescissions authority to force Congress to make spending reductions, the American people deserve to know why, particularly at a time when most Americans recognize that Washington's excessive spending is hampering the creation of new private-sector jobs. The bipartisan commission you have established to discuss solutions to the nation's growing debt crisis will not make recommendations until the end of the year, and even then the panel's recommendations are non-binding. There is no reason we cannot work together on a bipartisan basis right now to make preliminary reductions in federal spending while the debt commission conducts its discussions. Similarly, it is not too late for a rescissions package to be included in the supplemental appropriations bill, which is still being crafted by Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill at the time of this writing.

Thank you for your consideration of our invitation. We remain hopeful that we can work together in the coming days and weeks on a common-sense package of spending cuts that will serve as a model for the much more dramatic spending reductions that are needed to restore fiscal responsibility in Washington.

Sincerely,



Rep. John Boehner (R-OH)
House Republican Leader



Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA)
House Republican Whip