Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 13, 2010

The Honorable Sander Levin
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Spratt
Chairman
House Committee on the Budget
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-218, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen:

Last week, House Republicans set forth a blueprint for bipartisan action that can be enacted this month to help our nation's economy get back to creating jobs. We write today to formally request that we begin talks immediately on such legislation, with the aim of sending it to the president's desk for signature before Congress adjourns this fall.

It is painfully clear that excessive spending by government – coupled with the looming threat of a tax hike on January 1 that the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation confirms will raise taxes on 50 percent of the small business income in America – is crushing private-sector job creation in our country. If both parties are serious in the pledges we have made to focus on jobs, it is critical that legislators on both sides of the aisle come together and use what time remains in this Congress to enact legislation that removes these harmful barriers to private-sector job creation.

To this end, Republicans have proposed that we come together in a bipartisan way to enact legislation this month that cuts federal spending back to 2008 levels for the next year, and provides certainty for small businesses by freezing all tax rates at their current levels for the next two years. The spending cuts would be enacted now, to avert the possibility of Congress using a lame duck session to pass a bloated spending bill for next year after the November elections, and would include common-sense exceptions for programs affecting our seniors, veterans, and national security.

Leaving town at the end of this month or early next month without acting on both of these priorities would send a grim signal to the American people that this Congress and the

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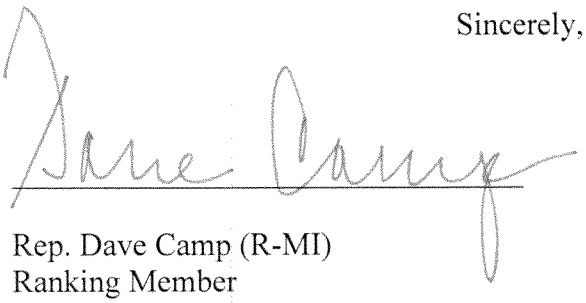
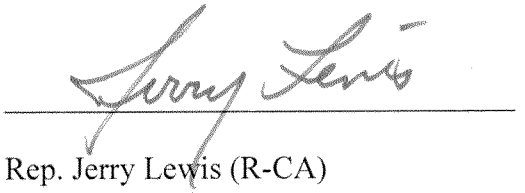
Obama administration are still not focused on the critical issue of jobs. We write today to ask that bipartisan discussions begin immediately to lay the groundwork for bipartisan action this month on the economic plan outlined above.

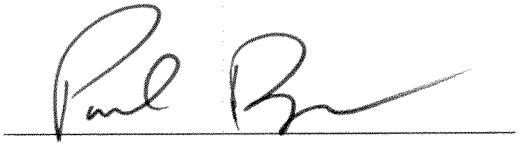
Sincerely,



Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI)
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means



Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA)
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations



Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI)
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Budget