

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 11, 2012

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

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to underscore our strong support for Speaker Boehner's recent comments on raising the nation's debt ceiling. During a May 15, 2012 speech at the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, Speaker Boehner laid out his principle for raising the country's borrowing limit: cuts and reforms must be greater than the amount of the debt limit increase. We agree with the Speaker that tying a debt limit increase to common-sense spending reforms is a necessary first step to solving the nation's fiscal imbalance.

As of June 6, 2012, the total national debt outstanding amounts to \$15.735 trillion. The debt limit currently stands at \$16.394 trillion, leaving less than \$700 billion until we reach our borrowing capacity. While the Treasury Secretary has the ability to employ extraordinary measures to provide additional headroom under the federal debt limit, these measures are only a temporary fix. The world's financial markets will not allow our country to borrow endlessly—any debt limit increase must be backed by a credible plan to cut spending. With China holding nearly 23 percent of our nation's foreign-held debt, we believe it's time to lessen dependence on our communist creditor.

For too long, our nation has lumbered under the stranglehold of excessive debt and record levels of federal spending. Any measure to increase the federal debt limit must be accompanied by common-sense policies to immediately cut spending, cap future spending, reform the nation's entitlement programs, and balance the federal budget. As Congress begins consideration of legislation to raise the nation's borrowing cap, we urge you to adhere to Speaker Boehner's simple principle on increasing the nation's debt limit.

Sincerely,



SCOTT GARRETT
Member of Congress

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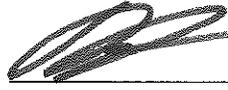
Ken Burton

Chris Smith

Jeff Sessions NS P 6PH Jle

Patrick Leahy (SC-10)

Michael Chyzer

 FL-20

Steve Chobot

Lynn Jenkins

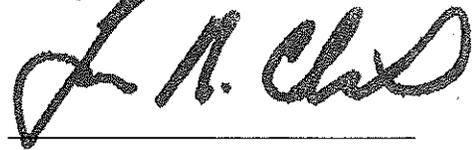
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