



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

April 18, 2012

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The health of our economy depends on creating the conditions necessary for our economy to grow, businesses to hire, and the middle class to enjoy the security they deserve. This will take making critical investments in the drivers of economic growth – such as education, infrastructure, and innovation – as well as coming together around a balanced plan to put the Nation on a sustainable fiscal course.

Last August, both parties in Congress and the President took a strong step to bipartisan deficit reduction by passing the Budget Control Act of 2011 (BCA) which created a framework for more than \$2 trillion in deficit reduction. As part of this agreement, the BCA included tight spending caps that will bring discretionary spending to its lowest level as a share of the economy since the Eisenhower Administration. In December, again on a bipartisan basis, the Congress passed final appropriations bills for fiscal year (FY) 2012 that honored the funding levels set forth in the BCA agreement.

Unfortunately, the House Budget Resolution for FY 2013 breaks our bipartisan agreement and proposes \$28 billion in new cuts in annual non-defense spending – exactly the area where we have already cut the most. In addition, the resolution rejects the use of the disaster assistance cap adjustment which the BCA explicitly created, and which the Congress used in its FY 2012 appropriations. The result is that the Resolution's framework allows only two options: every appropriations bill will provide inadequate funding, or some bills will provide adequate funding so that other bills will face even deeper, more problematic cuts. Both approaches break last summer's agreement, and neither is acceptable. These funding levels will mean deep and painful cuts in investments that America needs to succeed – in education and training, in research and development, and in clean energy and infrastructure – and will undermine future economic growth and degrade many of the basic government services on which the American people rely.

Until the House of Representatives indicates that it will abide by last summer's agreement, the President will not be able to sign any appropriations bills.

The Administration looks forward to working with the Congress to resolve these issues in a timely, mutually acceptable way that honors our prior agreements, reduces the deficit, and makes the investments we need to support continued economic growth and job creation.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey D. Zients  
Acting Director

CC: The Honorable Norman D. Dicks  
The Honorable Thad Cochran  
The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye