Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 19, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader McConnell,

We fear that without immediate, decisive action in the House of Representatives, the American people could soon find themselves in a perfect fiscal storm: a lame duck session of Congress with the looming threat of a government shutdown creating an unnecessary crisis for the purpose of forcing through tax and spending increases.

Unfortunately, President Obama has made raising taxes on small businesses a centerpiece of his reelection campaign. And this week, Democrat leadership made a stunning declaration: for political advantage, they would rather raise taxes on every American family and business rather than work with Republicans to avoid tax increases. Meanwhile, Senator Reid has made it clear that he will not bring normal appropriations bills to the floor -- and so the American people will have no opportunity to express their will through the legislative process between now and November.

The only way to protect the taxpayers from this premeditated mugging is for the House to pass, before the August recess, a fiscally responsible continuing resolution to extend federal operations well into the new year. Then, Senate Republicans can force a vote on the CR, forcing Democrats to explain – to the American people - why they are seeking a government shutdown crisis. Taking the threat of a government shutdown off the table will allow a serious debate about tax and spending policy before the elections.

Sincerely,

Pat Toomey

Michael B. Enzi

Marco Rubio (FL)

Jeff Sessions

Rand Paul

Mike Lee

Ron Johnson

Tom Graves GA-9

Vicky Hartzler MO-4

Mick Mulvaney SC-5

Joe Wilson, SC-02

Cynthia M. Lummis Wyo.

Jeff Fortenberry

Mark Sanford IN-3

Ted Yoho FL-02

Tim Huelskamp

John Mica