



U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
Washington, DC 20515

October 15, 2009

The Honorable Peter Orszag
Director
The Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Orszag:

As a Member of Congress, I am writing with respect to the *President's SAVE Award*. First, I request that you submit to Congress, and make publicly available, all the ideas that have been submitted to you for budget savings. Second, in the spirit of the program, I would like to propose my own ideas.

While I applaud actions to find savings in the Federal budget, I am concerned that this effort will not actually result in lower spending. For example, earlier this year, the administration announced \$243 million in savings through fiscal year 2010 (FY2010) from proposals such as doubled-sided copying. At the same time, the President has signed into law or is pursuing legislation that will, over the next 10 years, boost spending by \$3.4 trillion, raise taxes by nearly \$1.5 trillion, and increase deficits and debt by \$1.9 trillion. These expansions in spending are on top of existing unfunded obligations that amount to \$62.9 trillion, according to the Government Accountability Office.

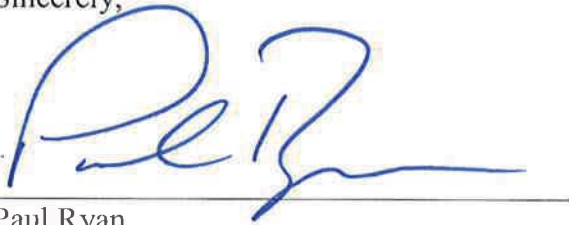
Despite my concerns, I wanted to pass along some suggestions for budget savings.

- Freeze non-defense spending. Senator Bayh recommended this in a recent article in *The Wall Street Journal*. Estimated savings of \$5.5 billion over 10 years.
- Forgo pay raises for civilian Federal employees and institute a Federal hiring freeze; another recommendation from Senator Bayh. Estimated first year savings of \$6.6 billion.
- Rescind unobligated "stimulus" spending. The "stimulus" bill was of questionable merit, but the remaining spending is clearly devoted to an expansion of government through a laundry list of Federal programs and not, as Dr. Lawrence Summers advocated for in testimony before the House Budget Committee, targeted, temporary, and timely efforts to initiate economic growth.

- Rescind unobligated Troubled Assets Relief Program [TARP] spending and devote these savings and any repayments of disbursed TARP funds to deficit reduction. TARP has accomplished its mission of stabilizing the financial sector and is increasingly being used to finance other purposes and programs by both the administration and the Congress.
- Limit total spending. Proposed savings by Federal employees will have little impact, if any, if not accompanied by binding limits on discretionary, mandatory, and overall spending.

These are just a few of my suggestions. As you know, the greatest budget problem facing our Nation is the unsustainable growth in entitlement spending. I would urge the administration to work on a bipartisan basis to reform entitlement programs to slow their growth. I have put forward a number of ideas to address this growing problem and am eager to find solutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Paul Ryan", written over a horizontal line.

Paul Ryan
Ranking Member