

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 4, 2006

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. Leader:

As we return this week to conclude our legislative business for the 109th Congress, it is of paramount importance for us to exercise due care in how we spend the American taxpayers' hard-earned money.

In particular, as Congress completes the Fiscal Year 2007 appropriations process, an "omnibus" bill should be avoided under any circumstance. Such an approach would prove more costly and cause us to enact many troublesome earmarks without thorough review due to the process.

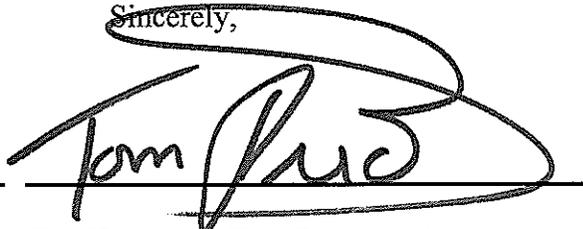
However, Congress must complete the appropriations work. To that end, a clean long-term continuing resolution (CR)—set at the lower of last year's level, House-passed or Senate-passed—for the remainder of the fiscal year, makes the most sense. According to the Congressional Budget Office, such a measure would save roughly \$7 billion that is otherwise allocated to be spent under our current budget. If the Senate insists on blocking a CR of such length, the House should pass a shorter version, but settle for nothing less than one that funds the government into February 2007—when the President will be sending his new budget proposal to the Hill.

Many of us are anxious to conclude our business for this year, return to our districts for the holidays, and begin anew in the 110th Congress. We should not do that until we see this one through to completion. Thank you for your consideration of this request and continued efforts at fiscal responsibility.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Mike Pence
Chairman
Republican Study Committee



The Honorable Tom Price, M.D.
Member
Republican Study Committee

John Yensink Randy Musgrave

Marilyn Musgrave Tom Ferguson

Charlie Norwood Barbara Lubin

Phil Ruff John Campbell

Goff Hahn Patricia Thompson

Jack Kingston Don Rouse

John Upton Dick Durkin

Chi Chi John Klein

Scott Barnett Kent Stranks

Lee Henry Paul Gay

Jeff Miller
Darnell Lewis

John Shadegg
Greg Padavan