

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 27, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Americans are struggling in today's economy. They're tired of business-as-usual in Washington spending, and they're furious about Washington wasting their money at a time when every penny in the family budget counts. American families and small businesses are being forced to make sacrifices, and their government—which is funded with taxpayers' hard-earned money – should be making sacrifices, too.

To your great credit, you have declared a commitment “to fiscal transparency and accountability and ensuring that [all] spending commitments are paid for without burdening our children and grandchildren with excessive debt.” In addition, you have made it clear that “spending that cannot withstand public scrutiny cannot be justified.” And you pledged to “slash earmarks to no greater than 1994 levels and ensure all spending decisions are open to the public.”

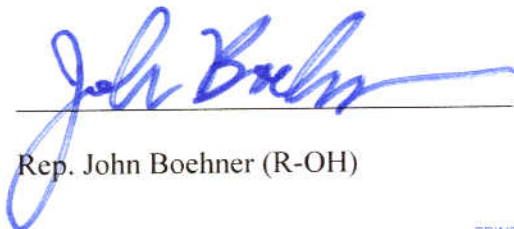
In keeping with these pledges to the American people, we urge you to veto the so-called “omnibus” spending bill passed this week if the Senate fails to reject it.

Like the trillion-dollar “stimulus” spending bill that was rushed through Congress without any Member having read it, the \$410 billion legislation passed this week openly defies your commendable objectives of fiscal transparency and accountability. It contains nearly 9,000 “airdropped” earmarks, most of which were not even considered in committee let alone on the House floor as is routine – compared to roughly 4,000 in 1994. And with the exception of the temporary increase that was set in motion following the 9/11 attacks on our nation, the bill contains the largest single increase in federal discretionary spending since the Carter Administration in 1978.

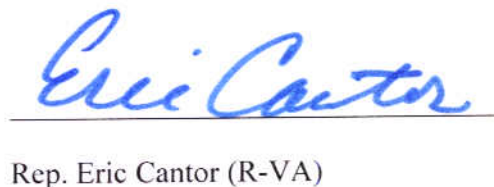
Most Americans would agree this is not fiscal transparency or fiscal accountability. Rather, it is business-as-usual in Washington spending: fiscal negligence. And it comes at the worst possible moment for financially-strapped American families who are struggling to make ends meet and are incensed at Washington's penchant for waste and fiscal excess.

This is a wonderful opportunity for bipartisanship and strong leadership. Republicans want to work with you to bring spending-as-usual to a halt in Washington and to impose a new standard of bipartisan fiscal discipline that reflects the sacrifices being made by families and small businesses across America. We stand ready to work with you to produce a better bill.

Sincerely,



Rep. John Boehner (R-OH)



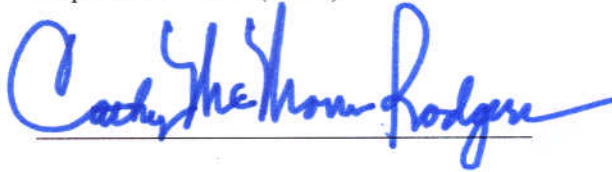
Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA)



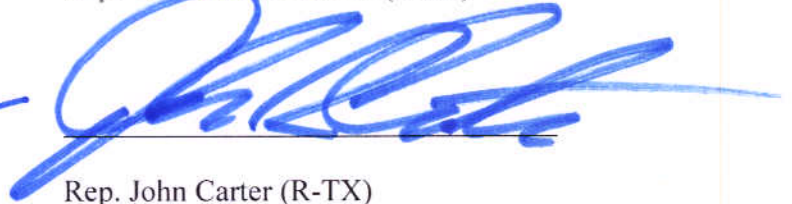
Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN)



Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI)



Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)



Rep. John Carter (R-TX)




Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX)



Rep. Roy Blunt (R-MO)



Rep. David Dreier (R-CA)



Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-CA)