

## **Democratic Ranking Members to Boehner, Committee Chairs: Begin Immediate, Bipartisan Negotiations to Replace Sequester with Balanced Plan**

July 25, 2012

Dear Mr. Speaker and Chairs of the Committees,

As the senior Democratic Members of the Committees of the House, we call upon the Republican Leadership and the Chairs of our respective committees to begin immediate negotiations with Democrats on replacing the scheduled 2013 sequester with a balanced deficit reduction plan. We all agree that a sequester starting in January, 2013 is not in the country's best interest and is not the best way to assure responsible deficit reduction. The American people want us to work together to avoid unnecessary economic uncertainty at this crucial time in our recovery. Failure to reach an agreement would have devastating consequences for our economy, small business and the middle class.

The looming possibility of a January, 2013 sequester is already creating uncertainty in our economy. Working together and in good faith, Democrats and Republicans can negotiate an alternative to the defense and non-defense discretionary sequester as well as the mandatory sequester for fiscal year 2013. We are confident that we can identify revenue sources and prioritize investments in a bipartisan fashion to avoid the sequester while achieving our deficit reduction goals.

We look forward to hearing from you and sitting down to negotiate an alternative to the sequester. We strongly recommend that this bipartisan process begin before the August recess so that the American people can be reassured before September 30 that the sequester will not take effect.

best regards,

Collin C. Peterson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture

Norman D. Dicks  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations

Adam Smith  
Ranking Member  
House Armed Services Committee

Chris Van Hollen  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on the Budget

George Miller  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Education  
& the Workforce

Henry Waxman  
Ranking Member  
House Energy & Commerce Committee

Linda Sanchez  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ethics

Barney Frank  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Financial Services

Howard Berman  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs

Bennie G. Thompson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Homeland Security

Robert A. Brady  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Administration

John Conyers  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on the Judiciary

Edward Markey  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Natural Resources

Elijah Cummings  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Louise Slaughter  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Rules

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Science, Space, & Technology

Nydia M. Velazquez  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Small Business

Nick Rahall  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

Bob Filner  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Sander Levin  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ways and Means

C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
Ranking Member  
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

Cc: The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the House  
The Honorable Frank Lucas, Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture  
The Honorable Hal Rogers, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations  
The Honorable Howard P. McKeon, Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee  
The Honorable Paul Ryan, Chairman of the House Committee on the Budget  
The Honorable John Kline, Chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee  
The Honorable Jo Bonner, Chairman of the House Committee on Ethics  
The Honorable Spencer Bachus, Chairman of the House Committee on Financial Services  
The Honorable Ileana Ros – Lehtinen, Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs  
The Honorable Peter T. King, Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security  
The Honorable Dan Lungren, Chairman of the House Committee on Administration  
The Honorable Lamar Smith, Chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary  
The Honorable Doc Hastings, Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee  
The Honorable Lamar Smith, Chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary  
The Honorable Darrell Issa, Chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
The Honorable David Dreier, Chairman of the House Committee on Rules  
The Honorable Ralph M. Hall, Chairman of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
The Honorable Sam Graves, Chairman of the House Committee on Small Business  
The Honorable John Mica, Chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable Jeff Miller, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
The Honorable Dave Camp, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means  
The Honorable Mike Rogers, Chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Democratic Leader  
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, House Democratic Whip  
The Honorable James Clyburn, Assistant House Democratic Leader  
The Honorable John Larson, Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus

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