

April 18, 2013

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Eric Cantor  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-329, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Majority Whip  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-107, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Cantor and Majority Whip McCarthy,

We write to express our support for an open Appropriations process in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, and that each of the twelve Appropriations bills receives individual, full, and open consideration on the floor of the House of Representatives.

A recent national poll put Congress' approval rating at 9% - lower than traffic jams and root canals. We believe that a large reason for this low approval rating is the perception that Congress can't get its job done. This is why we believe that considering Appropriations legislation, through regular order, with a process for amendments is so important.

Continually governing by CR wastes money, creates massive inefficiencies, and can weaken our national security. This is exactly opposite of the good government initiatives and reforms each of us promised our constituents. Rather than negotiating yet another Continuing Resolution at the last minute, the Appropriations process should work as it was originally designed, with Appropriations bills passing the House and the Senate and being signed into law by the President, after robust debate, with a process for amendments

Considering these bills through an open process and passing them into law is not unprecedented. In fact, for most of Ronald Reagan's presidency, control of Congress was split – yet Democrats and Republicans came together, more often than not, to pass freestanding appropriations legislation, considered with an amendment process that allowed all members play a role.

Appropriations bills are specifically mentioned in the Constitution, under Article I, Section 9, Clause 7, which states that “no Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law.” As such, we believe that it is of the utmost

importance that these bills, in particular, proceed through a regular order process to restore the confidence of the American people in their Congress. It is becoming increasingly difficult to support long term Continuing Resolutions, because we know that proceeding with regular order is the better way.

Sincerely,