

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

August 11, 2011

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus:

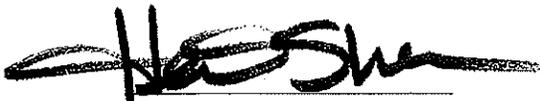
As you prepare for your post on the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, we urge you to work with your colleagues to achieve a balanced, bipartisan solution that will control our nation's debt and ensure that the United States remains the leader in the world economy.

Last week, Standard and Poor's downgraded the U.S. debt from a AAA rating for the first time in our nation's history. They not only cited our dire fiscal problems, but our dysfunctional political system as the cause for the change in rating, saying "The political brinksmanship of recent months highlights what we see as America's governance and policymaking becoming less stable, less effective, and less predictable." We believe it is time for Congress to prove them wrong.

As policy makers we have a clear choice in front of us: pursue a partisan approach that caters to the political extremes, or work together as Americans to put our nation's fiscal house in order. Therefore, we urge you to put politics aside and work across party lines to develop a fair and feasible path to fixing our long-term debt.

The Blue Dog Coalition believes that Congress still has the capacity to solve big problems. We stand ready and willing to work with you to achieve a solution.

Sincerely,



Rep. Heath Shuler  
Co-chair, Administration



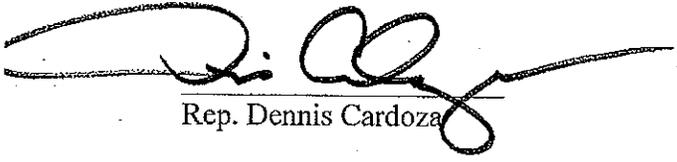
Rep. John Barrow  
Co-chair, Policy



Rep. Mike Ross  
Co-chair, Communications



Rep. Dan Boren  
Co-chair, Whip



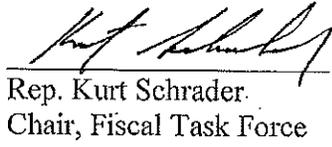
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Rep. Dennis Cardoza



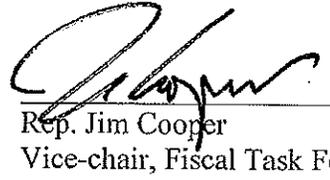
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Rep. Jim Matheson



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Rep. Kurt Schrader  
Chair, Fiscal Task Force



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Rep. Jim Cooper  
Vice-chair, Fiscal Task Force

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 11, 2011

The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
Vice Chair, House Democratic Caucus  
1226 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Vice Chair Becerra:

As you prepare for your post on the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, we urge you to work with your colleagues to achieve a balanced, bipartisan solution that will control our nation's debt and ensure that the United States remains the leader in the world economy.

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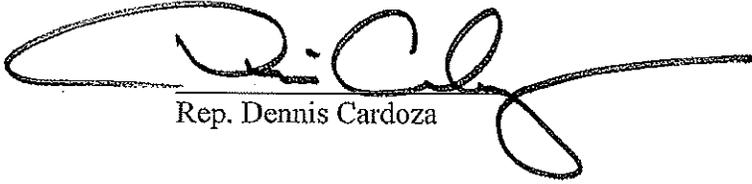
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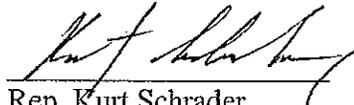


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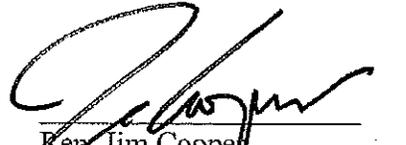
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Rep. Kurt Schrader  
Chair, Fiscal Task Force



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Rep. Jim Matheson



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Rep. Jim Cooper  
Vice-chair, Fiscal Task Force

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

August 11, 2011

The Honorable Dave Camp  
Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means  
341 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Camp:

As you prepare for your post on the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, we urge you to work with your colleagues to achieve a balanced, bipartisan solution that will control our nation's debt and ensure that the United States remains the leader in the world economy.

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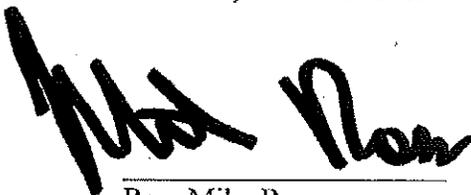
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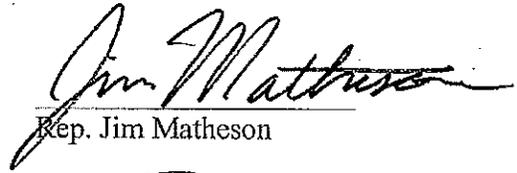
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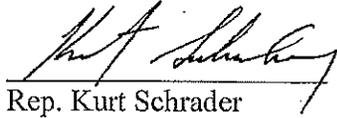
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Rep. Kurt Schrader  
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Rep. Jim Cooper  
Vice-chair, Fiscal Task Force

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 11, 2011

The Honorable James Clyburn  
Assistant Democratic Leader  
H-132, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Assistant Leader Clyburn:

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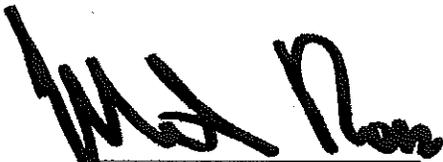
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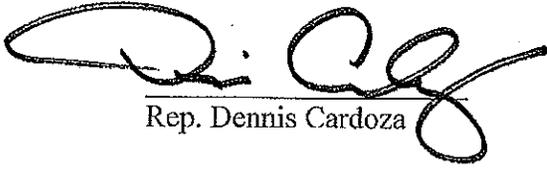
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Rep. Jim Matheson



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Rep. Jim Cooper  
Vice-chair, Fiscal Task Force

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 11, 2011

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling  
Chairman, House Republican Conference  
129 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Hensarling:

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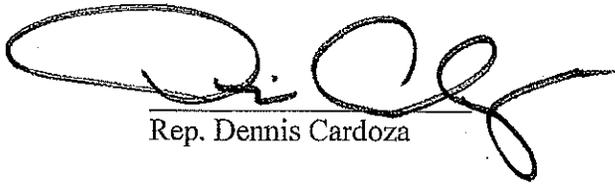
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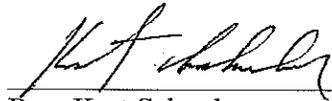
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Chair, Fiscal Task Force



Rep. Jim Cooper  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 11, 2011

The Honorable John Kerry  
Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
218 Russell Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Kerry:

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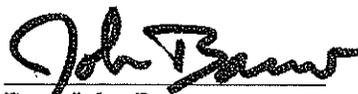
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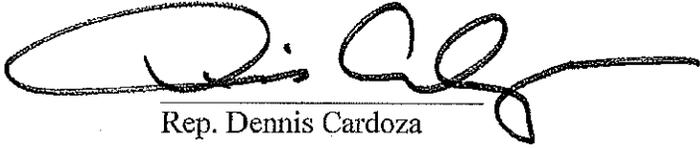
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Rep. Dan Boren  
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Rep. Dennis Cardoza



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Rep. Kurt Schrader  
Chair, Fiscal Task Force



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Rep. Jim Cooper  
Vice-chair, Fiscal Task Force

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 11, 2011

The Honorable Jon Kyl  
United States Senator  
730 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kyl:

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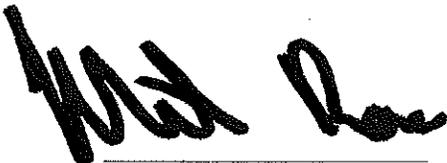
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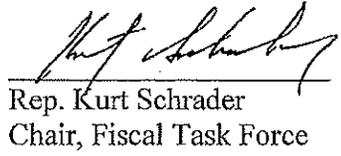
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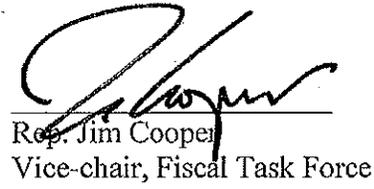
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Rep. Jim Matheson



Rep. Kurt Schrader  
Chair, Fiscal Task Force



Rep. Jim Cooper  
Vice-chair, Fiscal Task Force

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

August 11, 2011

The Honorable Patty Murray  
United States Senator  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

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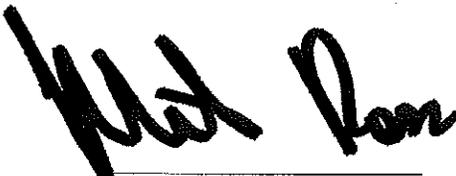
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Rep. John Barrow  
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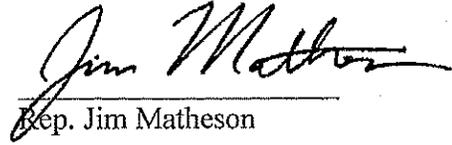
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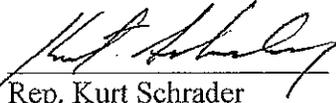
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Chair, Fiscal Task Force



Rep. Jim Cooper  
Vice-chair, Fiscal Task Force

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

August 11, 2011

The Honorable Rob Portman  
United States Senator  
338 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman:

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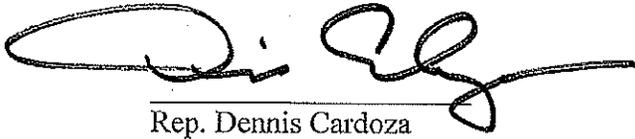
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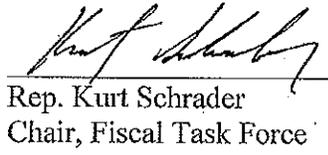
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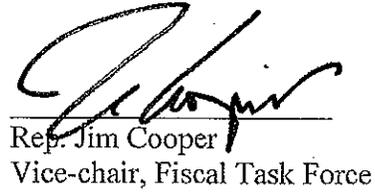
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Rep. Jim Cooper  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 11, 2011

The Honorable Pat Toomey  
United States Senator  
502 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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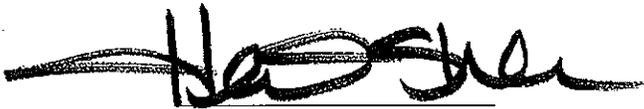
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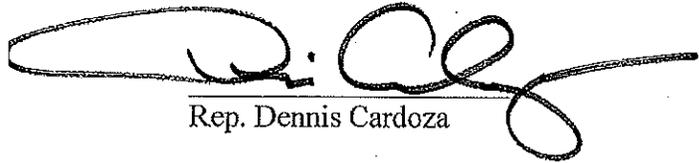
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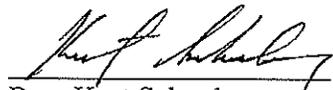


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Rep. Jim Matheson



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Vice-chair, Fiscal Task Force

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 11, 2011

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2183 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Upton:

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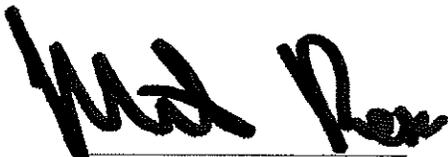
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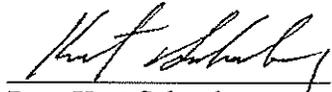
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Rep. Kurt Schrader  
Chair, Fiscal Task Force



Rep. Jim Cooper  
Vice-chair, Fiscal Task Force

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

August 11, 2011

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
Ranking Member, House Budget Committee  
B-71 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Van Hollen:

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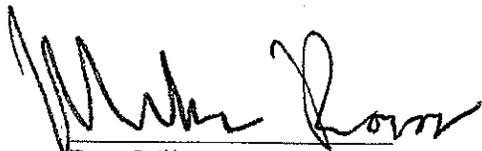
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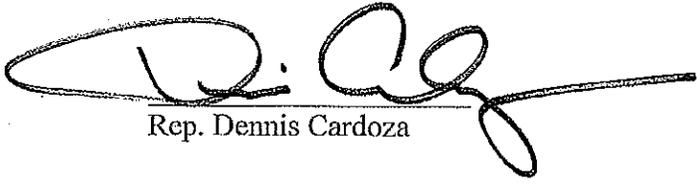
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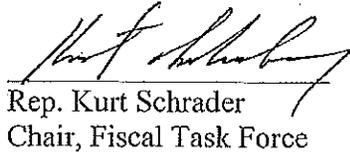
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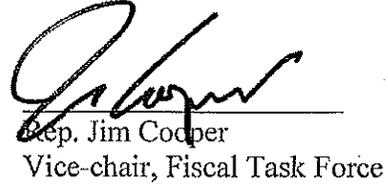
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