Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 23, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Madame Speaker and Majority Leader Hoyer:

Last week the House rushed through passage of a 1,073-page spending bill with a total price tag of well over $1 trillion. Many of the details of that legislation are still being revealed to the public, given that no one had sufficient opportunity to read the final bill before it was brought to the floor.

Reports now indicate that this week the House will consider a $410 billion omnibus spending bill to increase government spending levels for the rest of Fiscal Year 2009. Once again, Republicans have not seen this bill, and the American people deserve to know how their tax dollars will be spent.

Rather than hastily forcing another massive, partisan spending bill through the House, we urge the Majority to allow the House to consider a spending freeze.

At a time of record deficits, a freeze would allow the federal government to keep functioning at current spending levels without requiring beleaguered taxpayers to pay for new spending increases. Congress could ensure that essential government functions are carried out without any cuts while still protecting taxpayers from spending increases during a time of economic hardship. Our nation now faces the highest deficit in its history, and we are plunging further into unchartered territory with the anticipated debt nearly doubling previous record levels as a percentage of GDP.

In light of welcomed press statements from Democrat leadership expressing the need for fiscal restraint, we are confident that you will agree with the merits of freezing rather than increasing discretionary spending at this time.

Sincerely,

Rep. John Boehner (R-OH)
Republican Leader

Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA)
Republican Whip

Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN)
Conference Chairman

Rep. Thaddeus McCotter (R-MI)
Policy Committee Chairman

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER