

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 19, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001

Dear Leader Reid:

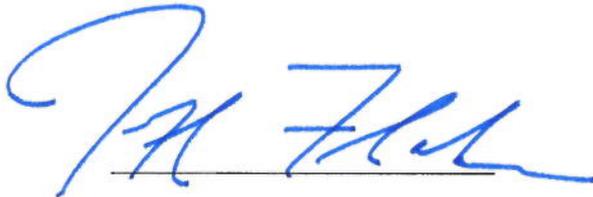
The Senate will soon be forced to consider a continuing resolution for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14). We write to urge that any continuing resolution brought before the full Senate for consideration abide by the \$967 billion discretionary spending limit for FY14 as required by law.

Congress agreed to and President Obama signed into law the Budget Control Act in 2011, which included statutory discretionary spending caps, as well as automatic across-the-board rescissions for a failure to enact additional deficit reduction measures. According to this statute and the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 that sets the parameters for sequestration, Congress may spend up to \$967 billion in FY14.

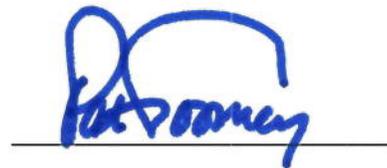
At a minimum, absent an unlikely sequester replacement effort that garners bipartisan support by the end of the year, spending in excess of this limit will only further complicate fiscal planning at the agency level, as additional across-the-board cuts would be triggered in January to bring our total spending down to that same level. More troubling, failure to prioritize spending to comply with this self-imposed limit would unfortunately demonstrate the ease with which Congress disregards its commitment to get our fiscal house in order.

While potentially politically expedient in the short term, it is difficult to conceive of a fiscal test by which the consideration of spending legislation for next year authorizing a funding level higher than \$967 billion could be viewed as responsible.

Sincerely,



Handwritten signature of Peter H. Hoehne in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.



Handwritten signature of Peter Hoehne in blue ink, written over a horizontal line.

Ron Johnson

Rob Portman

John Launers



Michael B. Enzi
