

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 15, 2020

The Honorable Mike Enzi
Senate Committee on the Budget
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Senate Committee on the Budget
634 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Yarmuth
House Committee on the Budget
204-E Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Womack
House Committee on the Budget
507 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Enzi, Chairman Yarmuth, Ranking Member Sanders, and Ranking Member Womack:

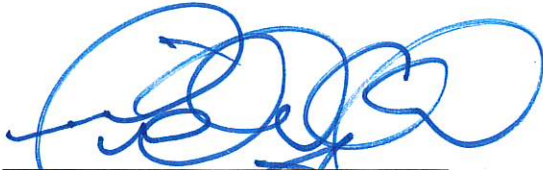
The Congressional Budget Act of 1974 was enacted with the purpose of supporting Congress as it sets national budget priorities. Not only does the Act charge the House and Senate Budget Committees with reporting the annual budget resolutions, it gives them broad authority over the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). It is for this reason that we request the Committees to direct CBO to begin including debt servicing costs in all legislative cost estimates produced.

Our nation's outstanding public debt recently surpassed \$23 trillion, as reported by the Treasury Department on October 31, 2019. It was only nine months ago that the U.S.'s outstanding public debt reached \$22 trillion. CBO estimates that, by 2029, payments for net interest will nearly reach \$928 billion—nearly 3% of our nation's GDP. At this rate of growth, interest payments will soon eclipse military spending and crowd out discretionary spending.


When Congress does not understand the true cost of a proposal, it is more likely to make decisions that endanger our ability to address future needs. Including debt servicing costs in legislative cost estimates will better equip lawmakers to make informed spending decisions. Members of Congress and congressional staff would benefit with this information, which can help better inform the development of legislation and voting decisions.

Americans entrust Members of Congress with their taxpayer dollars and expect responsible stewardship when it comes to spending. Although our proposal is only a start to reducing our national debt, it is an important reform that we hope you all will consider. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Michael Cloud
United States Representative



Michael S. Lee
United States Senator

Ed Case

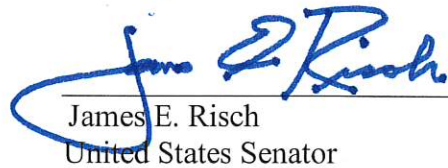
Ed Case
United States Representative



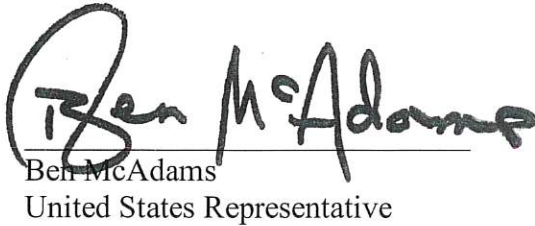
Ted Cruz
United States Senator



Jody B. Hice
United States Representative



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Ben McAdams
United States Representative



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Cindy Axne
United States Representative



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



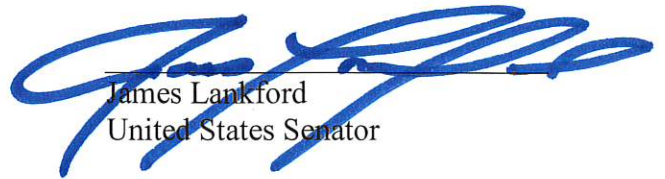
Mark Meadows
United States Representative



David A. Perdue
United States Senator



Ken Buck
United States Representative



James Lankford
United States Senator



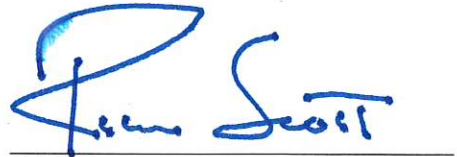
Collin C. Peterson
United States Representative



John Kennedy
United States Senator



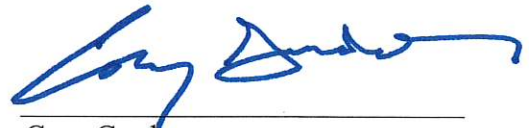
Mark E. Green, M.D.
United States Representative



Rick Scott
United States Senator



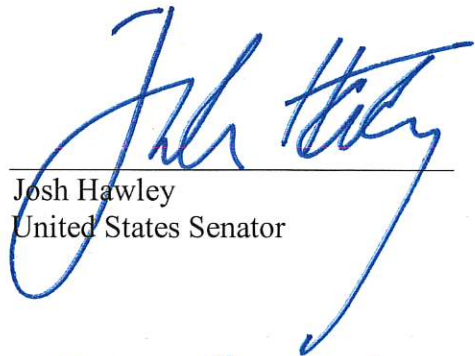
John Rose
United States Representative



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Chip Roy
United States Representative



Josh Hawley
United States Senator



Louie Gohmert
United States Representative



Mo Brooks
United States Representative



Robert J. Wittman
United States Representative



Glenn Grothman
United States Representative



David Rouzer
United States Representative



Garret Graves
United States Representative



Anthony Gonzalez
United States Representative



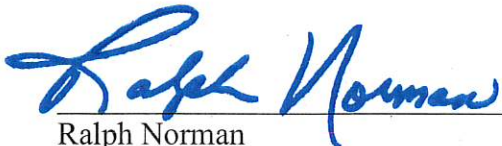
Lance Gooden
United States Representative



Van Taylor
United States Representative



Pete Olson
United States Representative



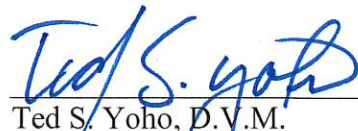
Ralph Norman
United States Representative



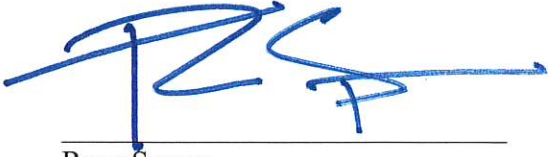
Denver Riggleman
United States Representative



Andy Biggs
United States Representative



Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
United States Representative



Ross Spano
United States Representative



Roger Williams
United States Representative



Ted Budd
United States Representative



Kendra S. Horn
United States Representative



Dean Phillips
United States Representative



Warren Davidson
United States Representative



Debbie Lesko
United States Representative



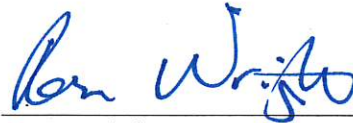
Gary Palmer
United States Representative



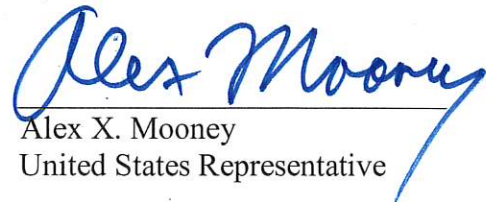
John Ratcliffe
United States Representative



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
United States Representative



Ron Wright
United States Representative



Alex X. Mooney
United States Representative



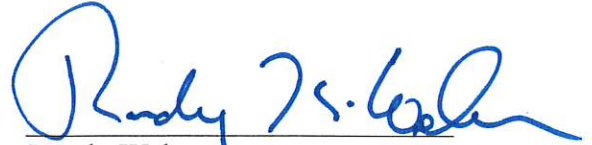
Colin Allred
United States Representative



Doug Lamborn
United States Representative



William R. Timmons, IV
United States Representative



Randy Weber
United States Representative



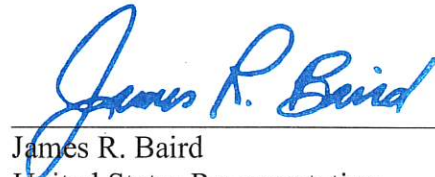
Jim Banks
United States Representative



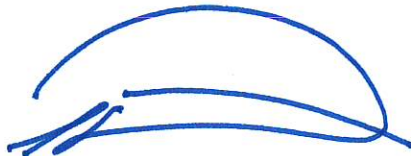
Steve Chabot
United States Representative



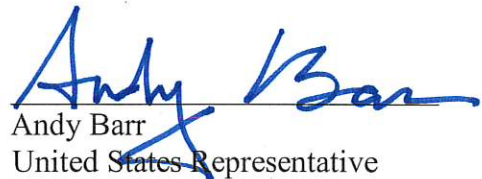
Russ Fulcher
United States Representative



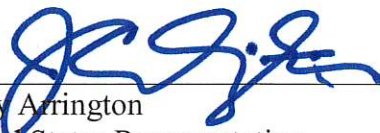
James R. Baird
United States Representative



Scott DesJarlais
United States Representative



Andy Barr
United States Representative



Jodey Arrington
United States Representative



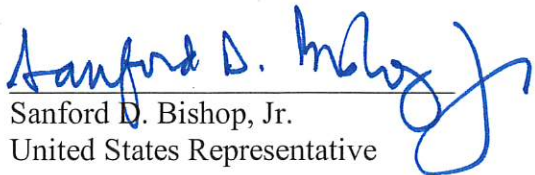
Fred Keller
United States Representative



Dusty Johnson
United States Representative



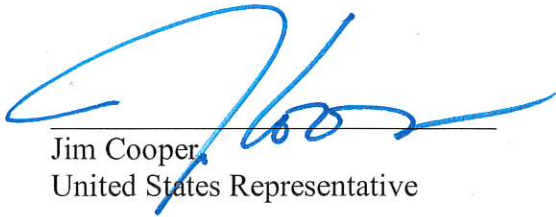
Abigail D. Spanberger
United States Representative



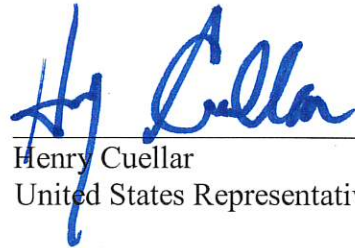
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
United States Representative



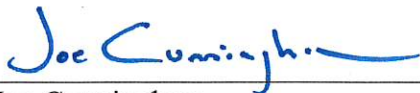
Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Representative



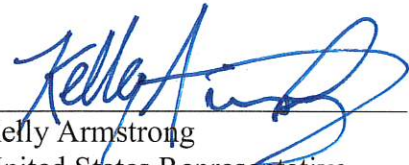
Jim Cooper
United States Representative



Henry Cuellar
United States Representative



Joe Cunningham
United States Representative



Kelly Armstrong
United States Representative