

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 20, 2011

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Patty Murray, Co-Chair  
Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction  
825B Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Representative Hensarling and Senator Murray,

In the coming weeks, the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction will examine a wide range of proposals that will impact our nation's fiscal future. As your Committee deliberates on how best to tackle this nation's growing budget deficits, we believe it is critically important to use any and all means at your disposal to put our country on a sustainable fiscal path. To that end, we strongly encourage you to include in your final legislation a bipartisan proposal that will give the President of the United States statutory line-item veto authority for the next four years to reduce wasteful spending.

S. 102, The Reduce Unnecessary Spending Act, which currently enjoys the support of 40 senators, would give the president a Constitutionally-appropriate expedited rescission authority to reduce wasteful appropriations by singling out earmarks, duplicative programs, and other non-entitlement spending in legislation that has been sent to the White House for the president's signature. The president would then have the authority to send those cuts back to Congress for expedited votes on whether or not to cancel or reduce funding for the provisions.

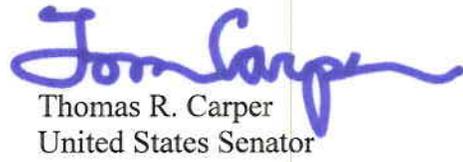
Simply put, this measure would provide the president and Congress with an important tool to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely and effectively. It represents a "budget scalpel" that will require Congress to hold an up or down vote on the president's proposed cuts, providing additional transparency and accountability to the appropriations process. While it is not a silver bullet for eliminating the entirety of federal deficits, as part of a multi-pronged approach, expedited rescission authority is an important addition to our toolbox as we in Congress work to eliminate wasteful spending that is not in the best interest of our country.

The text of S. 102, The Reduce Unnecessary Spending Act, is enclosed. We look forward to working with the members of the Select Committee to incorporate this legislation into your larger efforts to restore fiscal responsibility to the federal government.

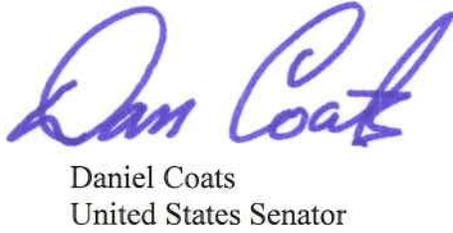
Sincerely,



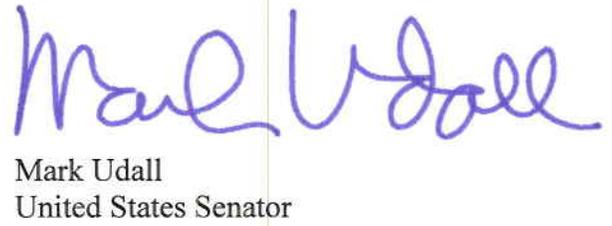
John McCain  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Daniel Coats  
United States Senator



Mark Udall  
United States Senator