

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 16, 2015

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

As leaders of the House New Democrat Coalition, we write to express our strong concern with reports that House Republicans are leading us toward another government shutdown. As you remember from 2013, the government shutdown cost our economy and the government billions of dollars and adversely impacted millions of taxpayers and businesses. From small businesses unable to get private-sector loans due to an inability to verify government data to the vast majority of federal research activities halting for two weeks, the government shutdown was universally a drag on our competitiveness and growth. Further, the thousands of businesses that partner with the federal government, and the millions of people they employ across the country, face the prospect of having to stop work on important services to the public and having to go without pay during a shutdown. We hope you agree with us that repeating this path will only lead to legislative chaos and delays action on critical priorities for all our constituents and all companies who employ them.

The American people want Congress to focus on strengthening our economy and fixing how Congress functions. We believe Congress works best when we focus on the issues that unite us rather than divide us, which is why we urge you to work with the bipartisan, bicameral leadership to prioritize bills that will create certainty in the day-to-day operation of our government and continue to grow our economy.

First, Congress needs to pass legislation that takes shutdown and default off the table and maintains certainty in the day to day operation of our government. These include:

1. Passing a bipartisan short-term continuing resolution without controversial riders to allow for the negotiation of a long-term government funding bill.
2. Raising the debt ceiling to prevent the default on our nation's obligations.

Second, Congress should prioritize moving and completing bipartisan bills that will continue to grow our economy in areas where both chambers share broad consensus and have created

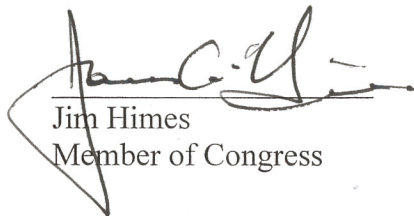
bipartisan momentum to get it done. There are many important issues that Congress needs to address, but in particular we should prioritize:

1. Replacing the upcoming defense and non-defense discretionary sequester cuts in a fiscally responsible manner so we can invest more in keeping the U.S. competitive and adequately fund our national security needs.
2. Passing a robust six-year transportation authorization. As you know, the Senate has passed a long-term bill and both House Chairmen have reiterated their commitment to completing a six-year bill.
3. Reauthorizing the Export-Import Bank. As you know, the Senate voted to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank through an amendment to its transportation bill. There is a clear majority of House Members ready to vote for a reauthorization in the House.

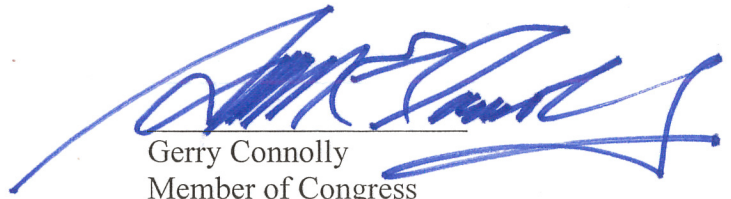
We stand ready to work with you and the bipartisan leadership to move bills this fall that create certainty and continue to grow our economy.



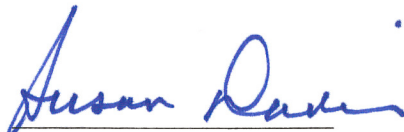
Ron Kind
Member of Congress



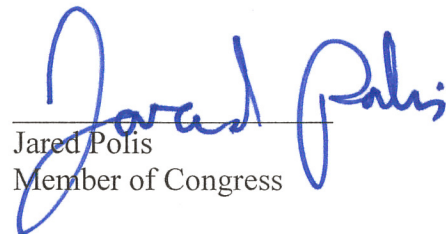
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



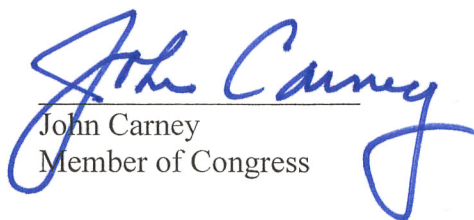
Gerry Connolly
Member of Congress



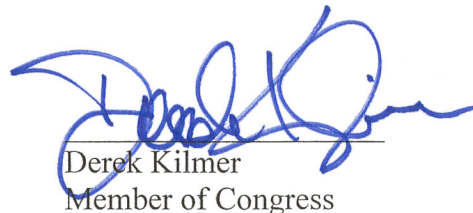
Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



John Carney
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
Member of Congress