



Congressman Fortenberry,

We are concerned to read that you have joined with 60 House Democrats to consider raising revenue as a way to cut the deficit. A deficit made substantially worse by Democrat spending policies. In running up such a massive deficit so quickly, the Democrats have created an economic calamity and a sense of urgency. Accommodating the Democrats and acquiescing on a tax increase is exactly what they want Republicans to do.

It is NEVER a good time to raise taxes, especially during the depths of a severe recession caused by high taxes and excessive government spending. When the government confiscates money from the private sector it always hurts businesses, stifles job creation and discourages individuals. We know you understand, as Ronald Reagan said: "We don't have a trillion-dollar debt because we haven't taxed enough; we have a trillion-dollar debt because we spend too much". Reagan was right that the only acceptable way to reduce our nation's debt is to cut government spending.

We worked to get you elected to stand firm on conservative principles. As you know the paramount and most fundamental principle of conservative Republicans is to not raise taxes. The letter you signed states: "**all options for mandatory and discretionary spending and revenues must be on the table**". This letter implies you may consider tax increases. We implore you to not consider ANY tax increases and to reaffirm to us that you will defend the only true conservative Republican solution to our nations' deficit problem: spending cuts. Will you please confirm your position on spending cuts and holding the line on taxes?

Sincerely,

John W. Orr  
Chairman – Washington County Republican Party  
NEGOP 1<sup>st</sup> District County Chair Representative

Voted on and endorsed by:

The Washington County Republican Party Central Committee on November 14, 2011.