



**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
SECOND QUARTER REPORT**

**Chairman Fred Upton (R-MI)**

**July 6, 2011**

TO: Republican Members, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
CC: Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Cantor, Majority Whip McCarthy, Conference Chairman Hensarling, and Policy Committee Chairman Price  
FROM: Fred Upton, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
DATE: July 6, 2011  
RE: Second Quarter Report

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### Introduction

Last year, we pledged to produce legislation that would protect jobs and promote new ones. We pledged to repeal an unpopular, unfair, and unconstitutional health care law and replace it. We pledged to scrutinize onerous regulations emerging from the vast federal bureaucracy and put a check on the Executive Branch. We pledged to conduct rigorous oversight and develop forward-looking legislative solutions in response to the problems we uncovered. We pledged to promote an all-of-the-above energy strategy that would harness America's vast resources and strengthen our partnerships with trusted allies to create a more secure energy future and the economic growth that goes with it.

Six months into the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, I am pleased to report that we have reached significant milestones on each of these essential goals.

**Indeed, in the first half of 2011, the Energy and Commerce Committee advanced legislation to protect or foster the creation of as many as 4 million jobs. We produced legislation that would reduce the deficit by almost \$90 billion. And we continued to stand guard against an interventionist federal government intent on growing its own power by encroaching into individuals' lives.**

I remain grateful for the honor of serving as your chairman, and I thank you for the time and creativity you have invested in our Committee's work. We have all been partners in this effort. I have set forth below the significant accomplishments of each of our six Subcommittees, and encourage you to share this document with your constituents.

### Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade

Led by Chairman Mary Bono Mack and Vice Chairman Marsha Blackburn, the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee focused its work in the first half of this year on our nation's economic infrastructure – the conditions and framework in which commerce occurs and jobs are created. This includes everything from trading partnerships and export opportunities to the security of consumer information and individual privacy in an increasingly digital world. The Subcommittee identified key factors that affect our economic competitiveness:

- The United States had a \$46 billion trade deficit in January, the fastest growth in 18 years. Mary and her colleagues on CMT will continue to focus on this issue as Congress begins to consider pending trade agreements with South Korea, Colombia, and Panama;
- The national unemployment rate stands at 9.1 percent, and has stood at or above 8 percent for 28 straight months; and,

- Entrepreneurship is at a 17-year low. According to Bureau of Labor Statistics data, the number of new business start-ups has fallen to the lowest level since data was first recorded in 1994.

As House Republicans press forward with the [Plan for America's Job Creators](#), the Subcommittee is taking the necessary steps to support and enhance America's economic competitiveness by improving laws that affect millions of jobs and the country's economic well-being.

Continuing its efforts to improve the safety of consumer products without destroying jobs or breeding costly litigation, the Subcommittee voted on legislation to make structural improvements to the 2008 Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act. The legislation is designed to prevent some of the harmful unintended consequences likely to result from the law and give greater discretion to the experts at the Consumer Product Safety Commission to protect the public against products that put them at risk. Current law will unnecessarily disrupt entire industries and force the destruction of safe, existing consumer goods.

On another front, the Subcommittee responded quickly to high-profile data breaches that put consumers' private information at risk and imperiled public trust in data security, one of the foundations for e-commerce and 21<sup>st</sup> century economic growth. Hearings helped identify a series of common-sense reforms that will strengthen data security. Those ideas are being refined and incorporated into legislation that will make long-overdue changes to protect individuals and job creators from the threat of data breach and replace nearly 50 conflicting state security regimes with a single, national approach.

Data security is the first phase of a much broader effort to define and secure individual privacy in an ever-changing technological environment. The rapidly evolving online ecosystem and advancements in businesses' ability to track and target commerce based on individual characteristics and preferences has raised new questions about individual privacy and the appropriate role of the federal government. The Subcommittee will spearhead a comprehensive review of individual privacy and the federal laws and agencies that currently govern it to determine a path forward that protects individuals while promoting innovation.

### **Communications and Technology**

With Chairman Greg Walden at the helm alongside Vice Chairman Lee Terry, the Communications and Technology Subcommittee used the first six months of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress to promote innovation and assure that federal policy keeps pace with a dynamic and growing technology marketplace. Wireless broadband and U.S. spectrum policy are central to the Committee's plans to foster job creation and private-sector investment. The Subcommittee held a series of spectrum hearings to inform this national discussion. Spectrum legislation could help create a nationwide public safety network, generate upwards of \$20 billion in auction revenue, and generate many times that amount in economic benefit through the direct and indirect creation of wireless broadband-related jobs and commerce.

The Walden Subcommittee is at the forefront of promoting broadband access for all Americans. American consumers' ever-increasing demand for mobile broadband services, whether on smartphones or tablets, will require innovative new approaches to free up spectrum for public use.

Private-sector build-out of wireless networks will enlist a workforce spanning a wide range of education and skill levels. From the high-tech design and production of networks and facilities to the building of towers and installation of equipment, American workers at all levels of the economy are beneficiaries of increased wireless investment. The latest estimates reveal that 2.4 million individuals rely directly and indirectly on the wireless industry for employment, and compensation for these jobs is 50 percent higher than the national average of other production workers.

The Subcommittee also held oversight hearings on the clumsily designed broadband stimulus provisions in the ARRA. Despite being branded as “shovel-ready,” less than \$1 billion of the \$7 billion in awarded grants have actually been spent and much of that money appears to be poorly targeted. Perhaps an early warning sign, some of the grant money is already being rescinded or returned because of problems with the projects that received awards.

The Subcommittee is also advancing a plan to strengthen the integrity of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) by codifying best practices to promote transparency and certainty in the regulatory process. We have already held two hearings on FCC process reform, including one on a staff draft of legislative reforms. The legislation is designed to ensure that the public has an adequate opportunity to provide input into FCC decisions, and that when the FCC intervenes in the marketplace it has demonstrated a need and narrowly tailored its regulations.

The Subcommittee is also working to erase dangerous, costly, or simply unnecessary federal regulations from the rulebooks. Early in the year, the panel spearheaded a Resolution of Disapproval under the Congressional Review Act to overturn the FCC’s controversial “network neutrality” rules. The Commission’s overreaching would put the federal government squarely in charge of the Internet by regulating and limiting options to manage network traffic and enter into partnerships to serve consumers better. The House approved the resolution, and it awaits Senate action, where under special rules only a simple majority is needed for passage.

Beyond the network neutrality rules, the Subcommittee has focused on other outmoded and unnecessary federal rules and red tape. For example, the chairman of the FCC recently agreed to our request that the so-called “Fairness Doctrine” finally be wiped from the federal rulebooks once and for all.

Without a doubt, communications and technology policy will remain at the forefront of America’s economic recovery. We will continue to pursue policy outcomes in this area that benefit taxpayers, consumers, and job creators alike.

### **Energy and Power**

Energy is at the forefront of the House agenda for the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. Energy and Power Subcommittee Chairman Ed Whitfield and Vice Chairman John Sullivan deserve a great deal of credit for shepherding an aggressive, all-of-the-above energy agenda through our Committee and to the House floor. Already this year, the House has voted on legislation to prevent costly regulations that will drive up the cost of gasoline and electricity and ship manufacturing jobs overseas. The House also passed – on a bipartisan basis – a bill offered by Cory Gardner to open up vast untapped energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf by eliminating bureaucratic permitting delays that have blocked the job creation and energy security that would come from exploring and producing in these areas. In the coming weeks, the full House will vote on a bill authored by Lee Terry to expedite

a final decision on the necessary permits for the Keystone XL pipeline. When complete, this pipeline will create the capacity to transport 1.3 million barrels of oil each day from Canada and North Dakota to U.S. refineries. And because safe and secure pipelines are essential for transporting oil and natural gas, I have let it be known that this Committee will move forward on a bipartisan pipeline safety reauthorization this summer.

These bills and many more are part of the [American Energy Initiative](#), an ongoing effort to stop government policies that are driving up gasoline prices, expand American energy production to lower costs and create jobs, and promote an all-of-the-above strategy to increase all forms of American energy. The Committee plays a major role in steering the [House Energy Action Team](#), a group of members on and off the Committee who serve as messengers about our positive, forward-looking energy strategy. This group supplements and amplifies the leadership provided by each and every one of our members, who have worked hard to convey the details of our all-of-the-above energy strategy to constituents back home and stakeholders here in Washington. The Subcommittee has dedicated 10 individual hearing days to the Energy Initiative on a broad range of issues, from the current energy supply outlook and global energy competition to a slate of legislative solutions to expand production and create U.S. jobs. Looking forward, the Subcommittee will continue to be the proving ground for a series of proposals that will provide a more secure energy future:

- The Transparency in Regulatory Analysis of Impacts on the Nation (TRAIN) Act, a bill proposed by John Sullivan to study the cumulative impact of the litany of environmental regulations coming from the Obama administration and their effect on energy prices, job creation, and economic competitiveness;
- The EPA Regulatory Relief Act, a bipartisan bill written by Morgan Griffith to give EPA additional time and guidelines to develop achievable standards affecting non-utility boilers and industrial incinerators;
- Legislation to strengthen and modernize the rules governing the safety of pipelines that transport oil and natural gas; and,
- Legislation that will be crafted in partnership with the Administration to update and improve the security of the electricity grid.

All of this legislation enjoys bipartisan support, a hallmark of our commitment to common-sense policies that promote jobs and provide for a more secure energy future.

### **Environment and the Economy**

Environment and the Economy Subcommittee Chairman John Shimkus and Vice Chairman Tim Murphy steered this newly created panel through one of the most eye-opening investigations in recent years, exposing rampant abuse of authority at the nation's top nuclear regulatory authority. At the same time, this panel continues to play a central role in the effort to identify and provide relief from federal regulations that threaten American jobs.

Legislatively, the Subcommittee has focused in particular on the EPA's controversial proposal to reclassify coal ash as "hazardous waste." This designation would significantly drive up the cost to manage and dispose of this material while effectively banning its beneficial reuse. The resulting lawsuits would be a trial lawyer's dream, but a nightmare for consumers and energy producers. The result? Higher electricity prices and hundreds of thousands of jobs put at risk.

Legislation offered by David McKinley would replace EPA's one-size-fits-all federal regulatory regime with a new approach that strengthens state regulatory authority of these materials under the Solid Waste Disposal Act. The EPA would regulate fossil fuel combustion byproducts only if the states first decide not to oversee management of these materials. The legislation enjoys the support of the Environmental Council of the States and industry.

With jurisdiction over the regulation of nuclear waste, the Subcommittee has conducted an aggressive investigation of the Obama administration's decisions regarding Yucca Mountain, the nation's only prospect for long-term storage of spent nuclear fuel. The American people have already invested \$15 billion to develop the Yucca Mountain repository, \$9.5 billion of which has been directly collected from the public's electric bills.

Led by our Oversight and Investigations staff, the investigation brought to light a report from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) Inspector General that found NRC Chairman Gregory Jaczko systematically misled and withheld information from staff and fellow commissioners in an aggressive bid to shut down the project. Following the revelations from the Commission's internal watchdog, the Subcommittee brought in professional staff members who recounted their dismay at many of the chairman's actions, including the decision to suppress and prevent the final release of a safety analysis that had been years in the making.

Long-term nuclear storage is not the only national security priority on the Subcommittee's agenda. We also continued our longstanding, bipartisan efforts to ensure that America's chemical facilities are safe from terrorist attack. Tim Murphy's long-term extension of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards program ensures chemical plants have the information and technical guidance needed to safeguard their facilities from terrorist threats. The Murphy legislation has been reported by the Committee on a bipartisan basis and awaits House floor action.

### **Health**

Under the leadership of Chairman Joe Pitts and Vice Chairman Dr. Michael Burgess, the Health Subcommittee has been at the forefront of GOP efforts to expose the hidden costs and devastating consequences of Obamacare. After our historic vote to repeal the law on the House floor in January, the panel began dismantling Obamacare one program at a time, advancing a series of bills to save taxpayers tens of billions of dollars and eliminating the unchecked spending power of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The Subcommittee convened important hearings to examine the true costs of the law, including the regulatory burden imposed on U.S. employers and what they will mean for their ability to create and sustain jobs. Obamacare granted vast new authorities to HHS to implement regulations and impose mandates on employer-provided benefits packages. Because most non-elderly Americans receive health care coverage through an employer-provided plan, these regulatory burdens and the tight restrictions on plans' ability to be "grandfathered" and exempt from the law's mandates mean that millions of Americans will likely see changes to their existing plans, if those plans continue to exist at all. Despite President Obama's repeated promises during the health care reform debate, it turns out that even if Americans like their health care plans, the government may not allow them to keep it.

We continue to expose unintended consequences in the law. Just last month, we wrote to Secretary Sebelius about the provision in the law, also discussed during one of our hearings earlier this year, that according to the *Associated Press* “would let several million middle–class people get nearly free insurance meant for the poor, a twist government number crunchers say they discovered only after the complex bill was signed.” We continue to await her response.

Despite the false and inflammatory rhetoric being offered by Congressional Democrats, the Subcommittee continued GOP efforts to protect and preserve social safety net programs including Medicare and Medicaid. The panel convened the first hearing in over four years on finding a long-term solution to the broken Medicare physician payment formula. The Subcommittee also continued its dialogue with the nation’s governors, recognizing that policies handed down from Washington have a profound effect on state budgets, particularly with respect to Medicaid.

For instance, the 2009 Obama stimulus package imposed new “maintenance of effort” requirements on states that limit their ability to adjust eligibility rules or strengthen verification procedures to ensure Medicaid benefits are reaching the citizens most in need. This rigid federal mandate was extended through the health care law, leaving states with virtually no flexibility to target their programs even as costs continue to rise and Medicaid consumes a greater share of state budgets. Members, led by Phil Gingrey and Cathy McMorris Rodgers, introduced the State Flexibility Act to eliminate the requirements and restore flexibility for states.

In a major victory for patients, doctors, and taxpayers, the Health Subcommittee advanced legislation to reform our broken medical liability system, which drives up costs and discourages physicians from practicing certain types of medicine. The common-sense reforms that moved through the Committee will produce significant savings for patients and doctors; the current broken system places an estimated \$210 billion burden on the system each year. In addition, the proposal is expected to save taxpayers about \$60 billion over ten years, and drive down the cost of health care, which the Democrats’ health care law failed to do.

### **Oversight and Investigations**

With Chairman Cliff Stearns leading the charge in tandem with the Vice Chairs of the other five Subcommittees, the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee has conducted numerous inquiries into waste, fraud, and abuse within the Committee’s jurisdiction.

The first Energy and Commerce Committee hearing of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress called President Obama’s regulatory czar, Mr. Cass Sunstein of the Office of Management and Budget, to answer questions about how the administration planned to reduce the large and growing regulatory burden on American job creators. Since then, the Subcommittee has continued its dogged focus on regulatory reform and relief, calling Sunstein back before the panel to report to members on the administration’s progress.

Regulatory relief is an essential component of the GOP’s [Plan for America’s Job Creators](#), and the Subcommittee has been working hard to expose some of the most egregious regulatory missteps that are costing taxpayers and job creators alike. For example, the Subcommittee has scrutinized new regulations surrounding programs within the health care law, shining a spotlight on a multi-billion dollar spending binge that did not actually preserve or improve anyone’s health care benefits.

The Subcommittee was the first to draw public scrutiny to the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program, which was allocated \$5 billion by the health care law. That's the same dollar figure granted to the program designed to provide affordable health care coverage to patients with pre-existing conditions. Both programs have failed to meet expectations. The high-risk program remains significantly under-enrolled, demonstrating that Americans with pre-existing conditions either do not know about the federal program or simply choose not to use it to access health care. At the same time, it has doled out millions of dollars at lightning speed to Fortune 500 companies and powerful Hollywood unions with no safeguards in place to ensure the money is preserving health benefits for early retirees that would otherwise be cut. The Subcommittee shined a light on the billions of dollars of taxpayer money that have simply been wasted by these two programs.

The Subcommittee has taken the lead in investigating the numerous waivers to Obamacare granted by the Administration. To date, the Department of Health and Human Services has handed out over 1,400 waivers to various unions and businesses that have proven they cannot afford to give their workers under the onerous requirements of the health care law. The Subcommittee's investigation of this issue has highlighted this essential question: if employers cannot afford to follow the health care law's expensive requirements now, how will they be able to afford them in 2014, when even more expensive requirements kick in? The Committee continues working to ensure Americans have quality, affordable health care they can keep.

The Subcommittee continues its inquiry into the secret negotiations with special interests that produced the health care law. Although the president promised repeatedly that health care negotiations would be held in the open and broadcast on C-SPAN, major elements of the law were written behind closed doors at the White House with unions, pharmaceutical companies, medical associations, and other affected interest groups. Even Congress was excluded from the negotiations (it never moved through House Committees) and this dramatic reshaping of America's economy. More broadly, the Subcommittee has taken the Congressional lead in exposing the Obama Administration's failure to live up to its promise to be the "most transparent administration in history," investigating opacity that ranges from missing White House visitor logs to secret meetings on the trillion-dollar health care plan.

Also in the health care arena, the Subcommittee has held hearings exposing extreme mismanagement, waste and vast amounts of fraud in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The Subcommittee is committed to working to find commonsense, bipartisan solutions to Medicare fraud and waste in the Medicare Secondary Payer Systems, which are costing the American taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars every year.

The Subcommittee's oversight extends well beyond health care. The investigation into the Department of Energy's stimulus loan guarantee program has drawn particular interest from the public and media because of the significant taxpayer dollars at risk and the seeming failure of the program to achieve its objective of creating jobs. Our efforts were recently highlighted by *The Washington Post* and other media outlets.

More recently, the Subcommittee has exposed nearly \$100 million dollars in grants that the EPA has sent overseas to highly questionable, "feel good" environmental projects. Given America's fiscal situation, we simply cannot tolerate wasteful spending like this.

The Subcommittee has also continued its traditional role overseeing the food safety of all Americans. The Subcommittee held a hearing on food safety and the FDA's use of the PREDICT system to protect America's food, and Subcommittee staff have also continued a long-running investigation into contaminated supplies of heparin that have entered the United States from China.

Finally, the Subcommittee has launched a comprehensive investigation of the many cybersecurity issues facing government and the private sector.

The Subcommittee will continue its aggressive review of issues within our jurisdiction. The panel's work will root out waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayers' dollars; expose political favoritism and deal-making; shine a light on the vast federal regulatory system in an effort to protect and promote job creation; and, delve into questionable activities wherever they may occur.

### **By the Numbers: Protecting and Creating Jobs, Reducing the Deficit**

Our legislative record is one of quantifiable results for job seekers, job creators, and American taxpayers. Taken together, the bills produced in the Energy and Commerce Committee could protect nearly 4 million jobs put at risk by the Obama administration's breakneck regulatory pace, and will create more than 150,000 jobs by eliminating the regulatory roadblocks that are preventing development of vast North American energy resources.

#### *Job Counter*

- The CMT Subcommittee advanced legislation (H.R. 1939, Enhancing CPSC Authority and Discretion Act) to protect thousands of jobs put at risk by the 2008 Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act. The law has already required more than a billion dollars worth of goods to be pulled from store shelves, and it is poised to do so once again.
- The C&T Subcommittee advanced legislation (H.J.Res. 37) to overturn the FCC's so-called network neutrality rules, which would stifle innovation and put the government in charge of how network traffic is managed and what kinds of partnerships can be formed to serve consumers. Regulatory treatment of broadband as if it were an old-fashioned, Title II, monopoly-era phone service remains a threat, and aggressive enforcement of network neutrality rules has been estimated as potentially costing between 500,000 and 700,000 jobs by 2015, and up to 1.45 million fewer jobs in the economy by 2020.
- The E&P Subcommittee advanced legislation (H.R. 910, the Energy Tax Prevention Act) to protect 1.4 million jobs threatened by the Obama administration's highly controversial plan to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, which will drive manufacturing overseas and increase the price of electricity and gasoline.
- The E&P Subcommittee reported a bill (H.R. 2021, the Jobs and Energy Permitting Act) to create and sustain more than 54,000 jobs through the development of oil and gas resources in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas off the coast of Alaska.
- Another bill (H.R. 1938, the North American-Made Energy Security Act) originating in the E&P Subcommittee would create more than 100,000 jobs through the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline and related economic development.
- The E&E Subcommittee advanced legislation (the Coal Residuals Reuse and Management Act) to protect as many as 316,000 jobs with a common-sense plan to block EPA's controversial proposal to reclassify coal ash as a "hazardous waste" and replace it with strengthened state authority to regulate these materials under the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

- In early January, the House voted on legislation – referred primarily to our Committee – that repealed Obamacare. That vote alone would save 800,000 jobs. We have been working on bills that repeal parts of Obamacare ever since.

These proposals will create more than 150,000 jobs and shield as many as 3.96 million more from elimination in the face of costly, onerous regulations.

### *Deficit Tracker*

The Health Subcommittee led our efforts to repeal the controversial health care law and defund its exorbitant, unaffordable spending. The Subcommittee advanced a series of proposals that would eliminate unnecessary and unaccountable spending within the law itself and make structural changes to our nation’s health care programs and systems that would save tens of billions of dollars and finally begin to bend the health care “cost curve” downward, improving health care access and affordability for all Americans.

- H.R. 5, the Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-Cost, Timely Healthcare (HEALTH) Act, will reduce the deficit by \$57 billion by enacting comprehensive liability reform to eliminate the junk lawsuits that are driving up the cost of health care and reducing patients’ access to doctors.
- H.R. 1213 will reduce the deficit by approximately \$14 billion by eliminating the unlimited spending power granted to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support the creation of state-based exchanges.
- H.R. 1214 will decrease direct spending by \$100 million by eliminating a duplicative program to fund construction of school-based health centers. A similar program is authorized to fund health services at these clinics through the regular appropriations process, although the president’s budget did not request any funding for the program.
- H.R. 1215 will decrease direct spending by \$225 million by converting a new mandatory grant program for “personal responsibility education programs” into a discretionary authorization, giving Congress the ability to evaluate program quality and effectiveness in determining whether and how much to invest each year.
- H.R. 1216 will decrease direct spending by \$220 million by authorizing funds for teaching health centers development grants rather than automatically providing a fixed spending level through mandatory funds.
- H.R. 1217 will decrease direct spending by \$16 billion by eliminating an unaccountable slush fund available to the Secretary of Health and Human Services to spend on virtually any activity for prevention and public health. This fund, which was authorized to provide billions of dollars each year in perpetuity, would be spent over and above the dollars already invested in these initiatives each year by Congress.
- H.R. 1683 will reduce the deficit by \$2.1 billion by eliminating the rigid maintenance of effort requirements imposed on states through the Medicaid program. These rules prohibit states from making changes to program eligibility or improving their verification programs to ensure Medicaid funds are reaching the populations most in need.

These bills will save taxpayers approximately \$90 billion over the next decade.

## Conclusion

We as a Committee are doing exceedingly well. You should be proud of our accomplishments.

Please allow me to offer some views on the next quarter.

Congress's best work is done when Members reach across the aisle and work together to find bipartisan solutions. I have been doing that my entire time in the House: my legislative record was built through bipartisan collaboration, and I have made bipartisanship a hallmark of the Energy and Commerce Committee in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Unfortunately, my (and your) overtures across the aisle have been met at most every turn with obstruction and political gamesmanship by the Democratic leadership.

To be sure, some of our Democratic colleagues have been great partners in our effort to protect and create jobs. Although the more extreme elements would characterize energy policy, for instance, as a highly partisan issue that divides the parties each and every bill that has moved through the Energy and Power Subcommittee this year has garnered at least some degree of bipartisan support. These bills have drawn even greater numbers of Democratic votes on the House floor.

The coming months will be exceedingly difficult; we are entering a critical period in the history of America's fiscal health. As of this writing, no agreement seems to be within reach on how – even whether – to raise the debt ceiling. What is clear is that matters within our jurisdiction, including Medicare, Medicaid, and the sale of spectrum, will dominate the solutions to this national crisis.

We are battle-tested and ready for the national debt challenge.

I hope that each of you will contact me or our staff director, Gary Andres, whenever we can be of assistance.