

Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 10:46 AM
To: Keiser, Andy
Subject: Putting America on a Path to Prosperity

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Putting America on a Path to Prosperity

Last week, the House passed a budget for 2012 that according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cuts \$4.4 trillion in spending over ten years, eliminates the deficit and puts America on a payment plan to pay off the national debt.

The federal budget that the House passed is an honest and responsible blueprint for finally tackling the growing spending crisis. It will lead to job creation and economic growth by setting America on a course to pay off our massive \$14 trillion national debt that is stifling job creation and stealing from the future of our children and grandchildren.

The 2012 budget reforms and protects Medicare to ensure it is available to future generations while making no changes to anyone who is currently 55 or above. It also creates opportunities for prosperity and economic growth while repairing the social safety net for the vulnerable members of our society.

To read more about the House Republican Budget in the *Wall Street Journal*, please click [here](#).

Historic Spending Cuts

As you may know, an agreement for Fiscal Year 2011 spending levels was reached between House Speaker John Boehner, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and President Barack Obama. According to the CBO, this agreement will cut a record \$38.5 billion from this year's spending levels and was signed by the President last week. It will reduce spending by over \$300 billion over the next ten years. The agreement averted a government shutdown and cuts more spending in a single year since World War II.

According to CBO numbers, while discretionary spending grew by six percent in 2008, 11 percent in 2009 and 14 percent in 2010, this year spending will fall by four percent. This is an important first step as we work to restore fiscal sanity in Washington, D.C., reduce the record

deficit and strengthen our economy. While this is an important first step, I believe there is much more work to be done to rein in out-of-control spending and get a handle on America's massive, unsustainable \$14 trillion national debt.

House Votes to Prevent Job-Killing Energy Tax

Recently, I voted in support of important legislation that would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from implementing unnecessary and burdensome regulations that would threaten Michigan manufacturing jobs and drive up energy prices for consumers. The EPA has been side-stepping Congress in their reckless attempt to create a "cap and trade" program. Such a regime would create a massive new energy tax, devastating job creation and driving Michigan manufacturing jobs overseas. The Energy Tax Prevention Act, which I co-authored, prevents these EPA energy regulations from taking effect, while keeping in place all EPA clean air and water protections.

I believe that these debates over energy are an opportunity for America to innovate, rather than regulate, our way to a cleaner more secure energy future. As you may know, I believe that we must have a new energy policy in this country that focuses on using American innovation and American natural resources to create millions of jobs, brings down the cost of energy and makes America independent from overseas oil.

That is why I have co-authored H.R. 909, A Roadmap for America's Energy Future. This legislation charts a balanced path to American energy independence and is an important step in reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

To read an editorial I wrote on energy independence in the *Lansing State Journal*, please click [here](#).

Legislation Introduced to Protect Children from Predators

This month, the bipartisan Child Protection Improvement Act (CPIA) was introduced in the House of Representatives. This legislation, which I coauthored, would create a permanent program to give non-profit organizations access to FBI background checks on volunteers who work with children.

During a four year pilot program, approximately six percent of individuals who applied to volunteer with a youth organization had a criminal background, including crimes such sexual misconduct with a child, manslaughter, and sexual assault. Unfortunately, outside of the pilot program, just one-third of our states allow youth-serving organizations to access FBI searches.

As Co-Chair of the Mentoring Caucus, I know that this legislation is necessary to protect our children. The CPIA builds on the success of the pilot and makes these background checks permanent and readily available to youth-serving organizations while still protecting the privacy rights of volunteers. It is supported by groups like Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the YMCA. The legislation does not increase spending, but instead is funded through modest fees paid by non-profit organizations accessing the FBI's background check system.

Thank you for the opportunity to contact you. To sign up for my email updates, please [click here](#). You can also follow my efforts on [YouTube](#) (RepMikeRogers) and [Facebook](#) (Mike J. Rogers). Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress

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