

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 16, 2011

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President,

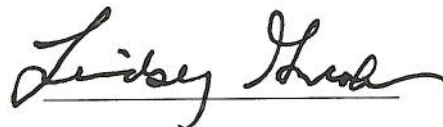
The fiscal challenges facing our country today call for courageous leadership. Government spending is growing at an alarming rate, and the federal budget deficit has reached record levels. Congress will soon face a vote to increase the debt ceiling yet again, the fourth time in your Presidency and the 11th time in the last decade. Future generations will drown in a debt forced onto them by the inactions of Congresses and Administrations far before their time. The time to remedy these failures is now.

While Congress is currently engaged in an important discussion on annual discretionary spending levels, the more significant long-term problem facing our country is the continued growth of mandatory spending programs. Federal expenditures on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are expected to double over the coming decade and represent an unsustainable portion of total government spending.

In order to ensure the long-term viability of these programs, it is imperative that you lead a bipartisan effort to address these challenges. In 1983, President Reagan and Speaker Tip O'Neill recognized the pressing need for reform, showed political courage and worked together to craft a plan that has safeguarded Social Security for the past thirty years. A similar show of leadership from you and from congressional leaders of both parties is necessary to address the long-term fiscal challenges facing our country.

Last year's National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform marked an important first step in identifying a potential path forward. Strong leadership is needed now to advance possible solutions to ensure that our entitlement programs can serve both current and future generations. Without action to begin addressing the deficit, it will be difficult, if not impossible, for us to support a further increase in the debt ceiling. House Speaker John Boehner this month offered to partner with you in a nonpartisan effort. We join in the Speaker's offer, and urge you to lead this Congress and the nation in the critical effort to strengthen our country's long-term fiscal security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dan Coats", written over a horizontal line.A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lindsey Graham", written over a horizontal line.

John Cough

J. Fink

Winfred B. K.

Rand Paul

Kelly Cuyette

William

Ray Bailey Hutchinson

Bancroft

John Ensign

Mike Ayers

Vanuxem

Ben

Ra Johnson

MA

Michael B. Enj

Richard B. Siegan

Sayby Clambler

Lyndy Winters

Rob Portman

Pat Roberts

Mike Johnson