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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

February 13, 2012

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES AND
RISK MANAGEMENT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
RURAL DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH,
BIOTECHNOLOGY, AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, ENERGY AND TRADE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
HEALTHCARE AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC GROWTH, TAX AND CAPITAL ACCESS

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner,

When I came to Congress, I took a unique pledge to the folks I represent to reject the congressional pension, bring my own health care to Washington DC, and reject any pay increases.

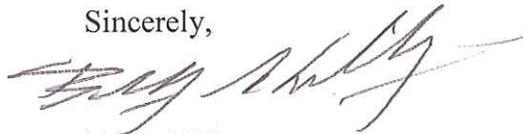
At a time of such tremendous debt, Congress must lead by example. Due in large part to your leadership, we have cut our own office budgets by 5 percent in 2011 and 6.4 percent in 2012. I have only been in the House for a little over a year, but am told that Congress cutting its own budget is virtually unheard of.

The House has also passed a fiscally responsible budget that cuts trillions of dollars in spending, preserves Medicare and paves the way for tax reform, while the Senate hasn't found it important enough to pass a budget in more than 1,000 days. Finally, the House has sent more than 25 bipartisan jobs bills over to the Senate, but the Senate refuses to Act. When the House only controls one-half of one-third of the government, some things are beyond our control.

But something we can control right now is how Members Representational Allowance (MRA) funds are treated at the end of the legislative year. In my case, I have saved around \$110,000 taxpayer dollars. My understanding is that these unspent funds do not immediately go towards paying down our national debt, but rather are detoured to a separate fund for two years before being returned to the Treasury. I believe these funds should go to the Treasury now with the specific purpose of paying down our debt.

I ask that you work with members of the House on a legislative remedy that provides members with another opportunity to lead by example. Going forward, the immediate return of unspent MRA funds to the Treasury for debt reduction should be the standard by which we govern. The more incentives we have at our disposal to save taxpayer money, the better. This is their money.

Sincerely,



Bobby Schilling
Member of Congress