

RICK CRAWFORD
1ST DISTRICT, ARKANSAS

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OF
LIVESTOCK, RURAL DEVELOPMENT
AND CREDIT

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
1711 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2013

Speaker John Boehner
Office of the Speaker
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

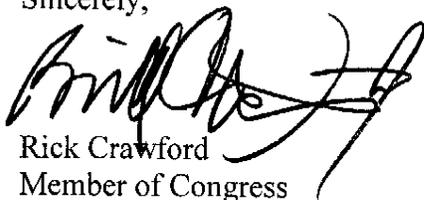
Dear Speaker Boehner:

I write to inform you that I cannot support the final version of the Fiscal Year 2013 Continuing Resolution unless steps are taken to add language that would delay implementation of the ObamaCare cost provisions that increase the deficit. A modest delay of three years would reduce deficit spending by over \$190 billion during a time when the major credit agencies continue to warn that the U.S. must address its spending problem or face serious consequences.

This is essential for me because it is unconscionable to speed full steam ahead with a new \$1.5 trillion entitlement program that could literally tip our economy over the debt cliff. Congress is not receiving the normal signals that catastrophe is looming because the Federal Reserve's money printing operation has artificially lowered interest rates. Absent this interference, the U.S. budget deficit would be far worse. How much worse? If interest rates were at their 50-year average, annual interest on the national debt would clock in at roughly \$1 trillion. But even if rates were at the remarkably low levels of 2008, the U.S. would still pay \$500 billion yearly just to service the national debt.

Mr. Speaker, while the normal warning signals have been masked, I cannot in good conscience sit idle while our nation hurtles off the debt cliff. Delaying the cost provisions of ObamaCare is an important and necessary first step in our nation's road to recovery. However, given the short timeframe and the late stage of negotiations, I recognize including this in the long-term Continuing Resolution may not be possible at this time. If so, I encourage you instead to focus on passing a limited stop-gap measure that would allow time for Congress and the American people to deliberate the wisdom of rushing ahead with a multi-trillion-dollar deficit-spending entitlement program while we are in the middle of a debt crisis. In my opinion, adding massive new spending in the midst of a debt crisis makes about as much sense as blood-letting a sick patient. Let's delay this procedure before irreparable harm is done to our nation.

Sincerely,


Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

WASHINGTON, DC
1711 LONGWORTH HOB
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
PHONE 202 225-4076
FAX 202 225-5602

JONESBORO
2400 EAST HIGHLAND
SUITE 300
JONESBORO, AR 72401
PHONE 870 203-0540
FAX 870 203-0542

CABOT
112 SOUTH FIRST STREET
CABOT, AR 72033
PHONE 501 843-3043
FAX 501 843-4955

MOUNTAIN HOME
1001 HIGHWAY 62 EAST
SUITE 9
MOUNTAIN HOME, AR 72653
PHONE 870-424-2075
FAX 870-424-3149

WWW.CRAWFORDHOUSEGOV