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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4611

COMMITTEE ON  
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SUBCOMMITTEES:  
RANKING MEMBER, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
ECONOMIC GROWTH, JOB CREATION, AND  
REGULATORY AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA  
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

October 12, 2013

Mr. Mark Moore  
Chairman, Fairfax County Chamber of  
Commerce  
8230 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 350  
Tysons Corner, VA 22182-3853

Tracey M. White  
Chairman, Loudoun County Chamber of  
Commerce  
19301 Winmeade Drive Suite 210  
Lansdowne, VA 20176

Mr. Sudhakar Kesavan  
Chairman, Northern Virginia Technology  
Council  
2214 Rock Hill Road, Suite 300  
Herndon, VA 20170

Mr. William White  
Chairman, Prince William Chamber of  
Commerce  
9720 Capital Court, Suite 203  
Manassas, VA 20110

Mr. Jon Wolford  
Chairman, Northern Virginia Association of  
Realtors  
8407 Pennell Street  
Fairfax, VA 22031

Dear Chairman Moore, White, Wolford, and Kesavan,

I appreciate your letter to the members of Virginia's Congressional delegation urging Congress to quickly adopt without extraneous conditions a Continuing Resolution and an extension of the nation's debt limit. I share your concern that the recklessness of some Members of Congress is jeopardizing our economy and the full faith and credit of the United States. I have been working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to move toward a resolution. In fact, in my role as a vice-chair of the New Democrat Coalition, a group of centrist, business friendly Democrats, I have been part of the efforts to reach out to moderate Republicans to initiate discussions on resolving the current stalemate.

Northern Virginia's economy already has been negatively affected by the harmful cuts of sequestration, and the continued disruption caused by this Federal Government shutdown, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> day, only exacerbates those conditions. With the number of military and national security facilities headquartered in our community, Northern Virginia is disproportionately affected by any reduction in federal spending as it is home to one of the largest concentration of federal contractors and the third largest concentration

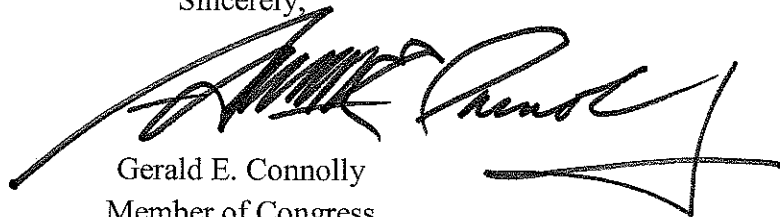
of federal employees in the country. As you know, more than \$40 billion in federal procurement dollars are spent in Northern Virginia, and one-third of our economy is dependent on federal spending.

And as the former Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I know firsthand how the negative effects of these fiscal crises can ripple throughout the community. In addition to the loss of federal procurement and payroll dollars, this lapse in appropriation puts at risk local safety net services for those most in need, including nutrition, child care, and housing assistance. Further, the threat of defaulting on the nation's credit could have disastrous effects for our region. The last time political brinksmanship brought us to the verge of default in August 2011, it resulted in a historic downgrading of the nation's credit, and it also jeopardized the AAA rating of several Northern Virginia jurisdictions and the Commonwealth.

I am pleased to report that I supported the Pay Our Military Act (Public Law 113-39), to ensure that our men and women in uniform are paid on time and to provide the Secretary of Defense with the authority to recall furloughed DoD civilian employees who are essential to supporting the Armed Forces. I also wrote a letter (enclosed) with fellow Virginia Congressman Robert J. Wittman to the Secretary of Defense urging him to exercise maximum discretion in implementing the Pay Our Military Act to ensure that the activities of DoD contractors whose functions contribute to the capabilities and readiness of our servicemembers are promptly resumed as well. Further, I was an original cosponsor of the bipartisan Federal Employee Retroactive Pay Fairness Act (H.R. 3223), to ensure federal civilian employees, who have been furloughed yet again through no fault of their own will be compensated for that time, just as they have in the past. That bill passed the House on a unanimous vote and is awaiting Senate action.

I will continue to work in bipartisan fashion as Congress seeks a path forward to end this unnecessary shutdown and ensure that our nation pays its bills on time. I would note that a majority of Virginia's Congressional delegation is on record as supporting passage of a clean Continuing Resolution in recognition of the economic damage caused by the current situation. I respectfully encourage you to join me in continuing to talk with those Members who still refuse to do so. The success of our nation, Northern Virginia in particular, depends on this shutdown and threat of default coming to a swift resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald E. Connolly", written over a horizontal line.

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress  
11<sup>th</sup> District, Virginia