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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4007

October 23, 2018

Speaker Paul Ryan
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Paul Ryan:

The American people rely on their Members of Congress to be good stewards of our nations finances. Our federal government however is spending at an out-of-control rate and accumulating trillions of dollars in debt. Reckless spending threatens our national security, economic competitiveness, and the future of our entitlement programs.

The Treasury recently reported that the federal budget deficit is now almost \$800 billion. I was heartened to hear President Trump's modest proposal that every Cabinet secretary find a way to cut their budget by 5%. This is a step in the right direction. Congress should follow President Trump's lead.

Operating within a budget, and under budget is something every elected official, and the United States government, should be required to do. Through careful budgeting, my staff and I operate three offices to serve my constituents while consistently saving taxpayer dollars. My office has ended every year under budget since I became a Member of Congress. Since 2013 I have returned over \$600,000 of my Members' Representational Allowance (MRA) to the Treasury to pay down the national debt.

If all Members of Congress applied strict budgeting principles to their MRA millions of taxpayer dollars could be saved every year. I therefore ask you to consider following President Trump's example and cut the MRA by 5% for every Member of Congress. I have returned at least 5% of my MRA every year. It can be done and it's the right thing to do.

The burden of bad choices today will fall onto the backs of our children and grandchildren. It is time for Washington to get our fiscal house in order. That's what the American people expect, and it's what the American people deserve from their elected representatives.

Sincerely,

Tom Rice
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Gregg Harper, Chairman, Committee on House Administration

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