

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 17, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell:

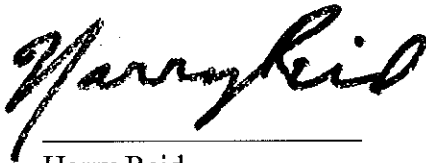
There are less than two months left in the fiscal year, and we are deeply concerned by the fact that negotiations to craft a bipartisan budget agreement have not yet begun. With the end of the fiscal year looming, we urge you to immediately schedule bipartisan budget negotiations so that we can work together over the coming weeks to avoid another manufactured crisis.

Inaction and failure to responsibly restore sequester-level cuts in FY16 appropriations bills will have real consequences for our country. That is why we are eager to start working as soon as possible to negotiate a compromise that will keep our nation and economy strong, and keep the government open.

With the existence of a clear and urgent deadline for action, we believe it would be unwise to wait until after the Congress returns from the August state work period – just 23 days before the end of the federal fiscal year – to begin talks on a path forward. We cannot afford to wait, only to let delay and inaction bring us to the brink of another totally predictable and completely preventable crisis.

We are ready and willing to work with you to produce a fair and balanced Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015. Therefore, we respectfully request you schedule the first round of these important negotiations as soon as possible.

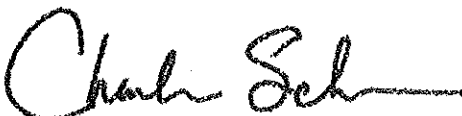
Sincerely,



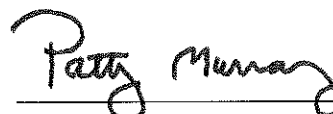
Harry Reid
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



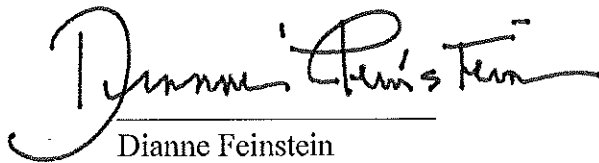
Patty Murray
United States Senator



Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator



Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



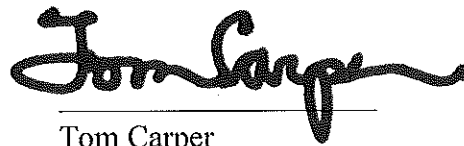
Ron Wyden
United States Senator




Jack Reed
United States Senator



Bill Nelson
United States Senator



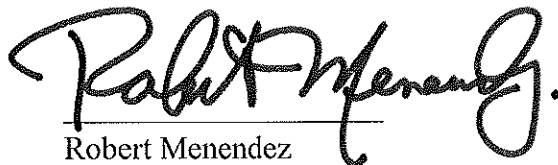
Tom Carper
United States Senator



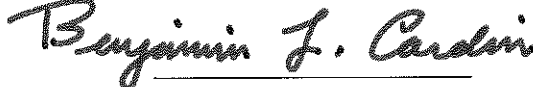
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Ben Cardin
United States Senator



Bernie Sanders
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Claire McCaskill
United States Senator



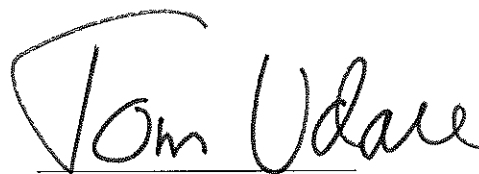
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



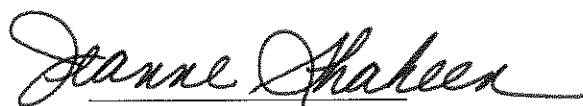
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Jon Tester
United States Senator



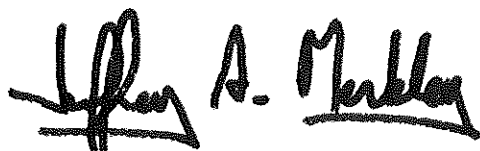
Tom Udall
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator



Michael Bennet
United States Senator



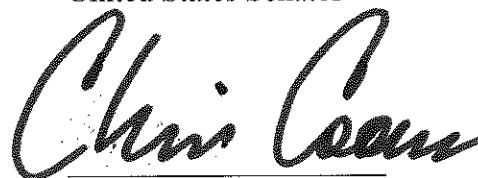
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



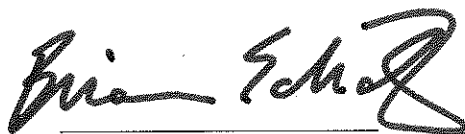
Joe Manchin
United States Senator



Christopher Coons
United States Senator



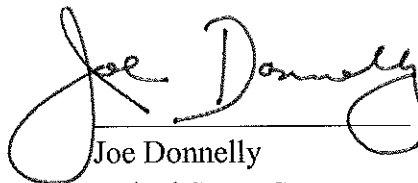
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



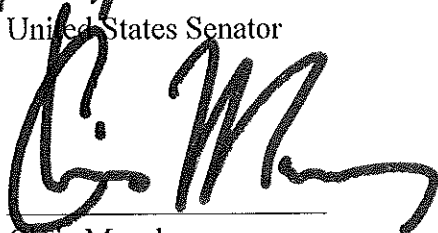
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



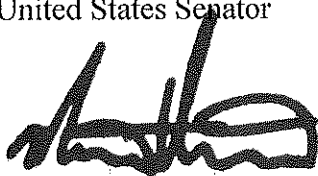
Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



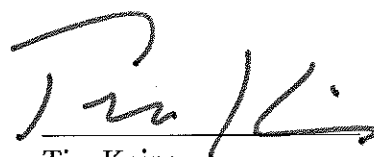
Chris Murphy
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



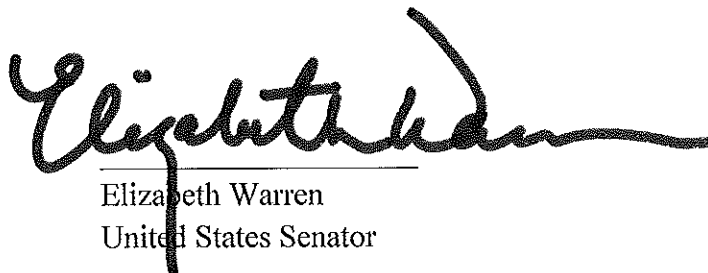
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



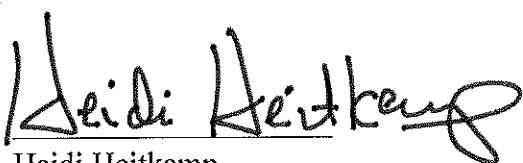
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



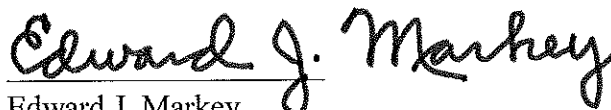
Angus King
United States Senator



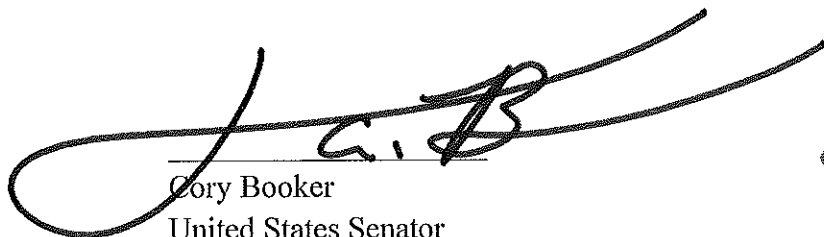
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Cory Booker
United States Senator



Gary Peters
United States Senator