

DAVID LOEBSACK
2ND DISTRICT, IOWA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1502

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December 4, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
US House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

As of today, the House of Representatives is only scheduled to work for six more legislative days in 2013. Meanwhile, the list of unfinished work continues to grow. Rather than sending Members of Congress home for vacation after only a total of nine work days since Thanksgiving, it is imperative that you keep the House of Representatives in session and voting every day to complete the pressing work of the American people.

After playing games with our economy through yet another unnecessary and manufactured crisis earlier this year, the House of Representatives has yet to complete any of the critical work that has faced this body for months. Finalizing a budget agreement and passing appropriations legislation before January 15th when the current budget runs out is not option – it's essential to avoid another unnecessary budgetary crisis that hurts our economy. Moreover, doing so is essential to responsible deficit reduction, replacing sequestration, fostering job growth, and providing employers and our economy with the certainty they need.

In addition, Congress must finalize a long overdue farm bill that is critical to our rural economies and that is needed to prevent a doubling of milk prices and sharp price increases in other staple food items. Completing the Water Resources Reform and Development Act is vital to economic development, commerce, and job creation. Families and employers need Congress to act expeditiously to extend vital tax credits, including the Production Tax Credit to support the renewable energy industry that has created jobs across Iowa. The National Defense Authorization Act, an extension of unemployment insurance, a permanent fix to the Sustainable Growth Rate, the extension of Medicare provisions important to rural hospitals, and job creation initiatives all remain incomplete.

The list of unfinished business is long and continues to grow. To put it simply – with so much work left to do after months of partisan fighting, that last thing Congress deserves is a vacation. Turning off the lights and putting a “closed for business” sign on the Capitol is irresponsible and shameful.

I stand ready to work every day and through the holidays to address the critically important priorities of Iowans, Americans across our country, and our economy. I call you on to keep the House in session and working every day to get the work of the American people done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Loebsack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave Loebsack
Iowa's Second District