

DAVID LOEBSACK

2ND DISTRICT, IOWA

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
MILITARY PERSONNEL  
READINESS

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR,  
AND PENSIONS

HIGHER EDUCATION AND  
WORKFORCE TRAINING

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

January 30, 2013

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
1527 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6576

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
125 SOUTH DUBUQUE STREET  
IOWA CITY, IA 52240  
(319) 351-0789

150 1ST AVENUE NE  
SUITE 375  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52401  
(319) 364-2288  
1 (866) 914-IOWA

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
US Senate  
S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
US Senate  
S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
US House of Representatives  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. President, Senator Reid, Senator McConnell, Speaker Boehner, and Leader Pelosi:

Today, the Bureau of Economic Analysis reported that the gross domestic product contracted .1 percent in the fourth quarter. This is the first contraction of the GDP since 2009. It is unacceptable. What is even more unacceptable is that this report again demonstrates that Washington continues to be part of the problem, not part of the solution.

In 2011, Congress took our economy to the brink, putting partisan politics ahead of families, employers, and our nation's economy. The result was the first credit downgrade in our great nation's history and the creation of a political gimmick in the form of the threat of arbitrary, across-the-board cuts rather than real and balanced deficit reduction. The threat of sequestration continues to threaten our economy.

Instead of backing away from the brinksmanship and partisan ideology that had already damaged our economy, Washington again put politics ahead of families earlier this year, threatening to hike taxes on working families when they can least afford it. Yet another last minute deal and more uncertainty for our economy was the result, with sequestration simply kicked down the road yet again.

Now the repercussions of the ongoing uncertainty created entirely and unnecessarily by Washington are again damaging our economy, hurting employers, threatening jobs, and undermining middle-class families. In Iowa, we see good jobs threatened at Rock Island Arsenal by sequestration, private employers being held back from growing or hiring, and families unsure if they will continue to hold on to their jobs.

To say this is utterly unacceptable does not adequately express my or Iowans' disappointment in Washington. It is past time to act to stop sequestration, rebuild our economy, and set our country on a stable, fiscally responsible path forward. Delays and partisan politics cannot continue. As today's fourth quarter GDP report demonstrates, the repercussions of Washington's inaction combined with partisan brinkmanship are real.

I stand ready to work with anyone on either side of the aisle who is willing to put our country, our economy, and middle-class families first and get to work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Loeb sack". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dave Loeb sack  
Iowa's Second District