



**U.S. House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET  
Washington, DC 20515

December 5, 2019

The Honorable John Yarmuth  
Chairman  
House Committee on the Budget  
204-E Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Yarmuth,

We are writing to express our concern and disappointment with the Democrat majority's unfortunate focus on a partisan impeachment process, and the obvious failure to make progress on the fiscal issues that are of great concern to the American people. This year has been a tremendous missed opportunity, and it saddens us to see the First Session of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress close with no effort to address the dire budget outlook we face. Rather than pursuing zealous partisan investigations and impeachment, House Democrats could have worked to pass a budget resolution, the primary responsibility of this Committee, and advance bipartisan solutions to address our nation's rising deficits and debt.

First, we are troubled you have recently undertaken a partisan inquiry of the Office of Management and Budget's longstanding apportionment authorities. We have serious concerns with the manner in which the Committee has attempted to conduct this investigation. The Democrat majority has refused to consult with the minority regarding these activities and has failed to establish clear procedures for the handling of Budget Committee records. Neither the Speaker's impeachment announcement<sup>1</sup> nor H. Res. 660<sup>2</sup> mention the Budget Committee. However, H. Res. 660 states that "any other committee having custody of records or other materials relating to the inquiry...is authorized, in consultation with the ranking minority member, to transfer such records or materials to the Committee on the Judiciary." To date, no consultation has occurred at any level with the minority members of this Committee regarding the status of these records. We are concerned that there is no procedure in place to ensure the

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<sup>1</sup> Speaker Pelosi Remarks Announcing Impeachment Inquiry, September 24, 2019.

<https://www.speaker.gov/newsroom/92419-0>

<sup>2</sup> H. Res. 660 (116<sup>th</sup> Congress), Directing certain committees to continue their ongoing investigations as part of the existing House of Representatives inquiry into whether sufficient grounds exist for the House of Representatives to exercise its Constitutional power to impeach Donald John Trump, President of the United States of America, and for other purposes, passed the House of Representatives on October 31, 2019.

<https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hres660/BILLS-116hres660eh.pdf>

proper handling of Committee records, particularly to ensure that any documents are not released in an unauthorized fashion.

Second, we remind you that divided government can often produce results for the American people, even on difficult and challenging issues. Rather than working together with both political parties to advance solutions beneficial to the public, the Democrat majority failed to achieve the Committee's primary responsibilities this year, including:

- Marking up and passing an annual budget resolution – the principal responsibility of the House Budget Committee – to put the federal government on a fiscally sustainable path;
- Enforcing budgetary rules and statutes, including the House Pay-As-You-Go rule enacted by the new Democrat majority; and
- Addressing the current deficits and debt.

Additionally, the Democrat majority held hyper-partisan hearings more appropriately in the jurisdiction of other committees. These hearings often featured radical, left-leaning witnesses disconnected from the reality of public policymaking. Even topics such as anti-poverty efforts, retirement security, and infrastructure, which are typically bipartisan subject areas, were not designed and planned in a bipartisan manner. Instead, these hearings served as more opportunities for partisan attacks on the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans.

Finally, the Democrat agenda that did pass the House made the nation's fiscal outlook even worse. Since the beginning of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, the House has passed legislation to increase mandatory spending, the primary driver of our current deficits and debt, by a net total of more than \$70 billion over ten years. Examples of deficit-increasing bills passed by the House on partisan votes include: American Dream and Promise Act (H.R. 6),<sup>3</sup> the For the People Act (H.R. 1),<sup>4</sup> and the Rehabilitation for Multiemployer Pensions Act (H.R. 397).<sup>5</sup> The majority also attempted to substantially increase discretionary spending. For fiscal year 2020, the original House appropriations allocation set by H. Res. 293,<sup>6</sup> the appropriations "deemer," was almost \$10 billion higher than the spending caps set by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019.<sup>7</sup>

In closing, we underscore our disappointment with the Democrat majority's focus on partisan investigations and impeachment, and your failure to prioritize issues of importance to the American people and this Committee.

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<sup>3</sup> H.R. 6 passed the House of Representatives on June 4, 2019. <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr6/BILLS-116hr6pcs.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> H.R. 1 passed the House of Representatives on March 8, 2019. <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr1/BILLS-116hr1pcs.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> H.R. 397 passed the House of Representatives on July 24, 2019. <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr397/BILLS-116hr397rds.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> H. Res. 293 passed the House of Representatives pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 294 on April 9, 2019. <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hres293/BILLS-116hres293eh.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> The Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, Public Law 116-37, was enacted on August 2, 2019. <https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ37/PLAW-116publ37.pdf>

Sincerely,



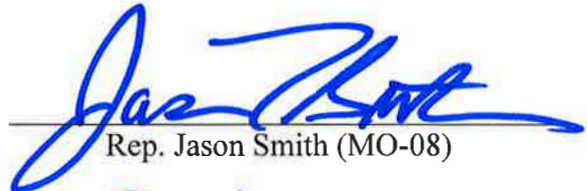
Ranking Member Steve Womack (AR-03)



Rep. Rob Woodall (GA-07)



Rep. Bill Johnson (OH-06)



Rep. Jason Smith (MO-08)



Rep. Bill Flores (TX-17)



Rep. George Holding (NC-02)



Rep. Chris Stewart (UT-02)



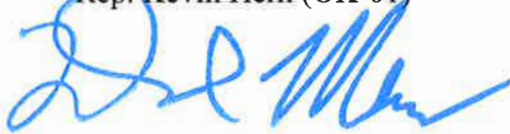
Rep. Ralph Norman (SC-05)



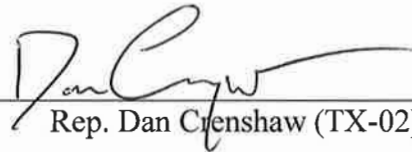
Rep. Kevin Hern (OK-01)



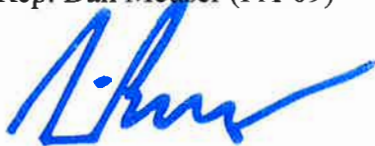
Rep. Chip Roy (TX-21)



Rep. Dan Meuser (PA-09)



Rep. Dan Crenshaw (TX-02)



Rep. Tim Burchett (TN-02)