



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0906

July 10, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker McCarthy,

Americans expect House Republicans to lead in divided government to achieve tangible results. They do not care about “unity” absent unity of purpose and achievement. They expect us to go beyond the theater of hearings, messaging bills that die in the Senate, or very modest spending limits in the wake of record inflationary spending levels.

We therefore write to inform you that we cannot support appropriations bills that will produce a top-line discretionary spending level barely below the bloated FY 2023 level (already grossly increased by the lame-duck omnibus spending bill we all vehemently opposed a mere six months ago) and effectively in line with the cap set by the debt ceiling deal that we opposed and was supported by more Democrats than Republicans.

Instead, we expect all appropriations measures – as laid out at the beginning of the 118th Congress – to be in line with the enacted FY 2022 topline level of \$1.471 trillion, and to be achieved **without the use of reallocated rescissions to increase discretionary spending above that top-line**. Rescissions are useful in reducing spending and we encourage their use, but we cannot support using them to shift funding to the very bureaucrats implementing the Biden agenda at roughly current levels of spending, thereby enshrining and continuing Democrats’ reckless inflationary spending.

We are thankful for your recent efforts – since that debt ceiling agreement – to restore cross-conference meetings to achieve consensus on appropriations. As we already have done, we will work in good faith to offer ideas on the *best* ways to reduce spending, but only if combined with the leadership necessary to set the target for the whole team. For unity to exist, we must have a clear mission to actually cut the total discretionary federal bureaucracy to pre-pandemic levels and end the empowerment of President Biden’s radical woke and weaponized government.

Absent adhering to the \$1.471 trillion spending level – and/or achieving significant policy victories such as forcing President Biden to sign H.R. 2 and take the steps necessary to secure the border – we see an impossible path to reach 218 Republican votes on appropriations or other measures.

Accordingly, please be advised that:

- 1) We plan to vote against any appropriations bills designed to achieve the approximately \$1.586 trillion top-line spending level – roughly equal to the spending caps agreed to with

President Biden in the debt ceiling deal and representing a mere 1% reduction from Democrats' egregious post-COVID spending level;

- 2) We expect baseline appropriations to match the enacted FY 2022 \$1.471 trillion level, as previously agreed upon, without relying on rescissions to spend above that level, so we may truly return the federal bureaucracy to its pre-pandemic state (as is widely supported by the public);
- 3) We urge you to hold floor consideration of any appropriations measure until all 12 bills have been reported out by the Appropriations Committee *and* we, along with all Americans, can assess total spending levels and their impact;
- 4) We urge you to expand upon your leadership to publicly reject the possibility of an omnibus appropriations measure *or* supplemental Ukraine appropriations bill and look forward to working with you to ensure that neither happens;
- 5) Through continued conversations, we will consider options in good faith that address the spending crisis in concert with other urgent policy changes – beyond simple one year riders that likely won't make it past the Senate and the President's desk. For example, enactment of H.R. 2 to secure the border, capping or cutting the harmful impacts of the so-called *Inflation Reduction Act*, and/or forcing the President to follow current laws and restricting its ability to abuse executive power to advance his radical agenda.

We intend to keep the promises we made to the American people to cut federal spending, reduce the size and scope of the woke and weaponized federal bureaucracy, and ensure their security. And we stand ready to work with you to use the power of the purse to force the President to the table to work with us to make good on these promises.

Sincerely,



Rep. Scott Perry (PA-10)



Rep. Chip Roy (TX-21)



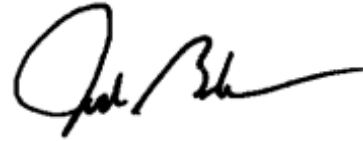
Rep. Bob Good (VA-05)



Rep. Lauren Boebert (CO-03)



Rep. Dan Bishop (NC-08)



Rep. Josh Brecheen (OK-02)



Rep. Eric Burlison (MO-07)



Rep. Eli Crane (AZ-02)



Rep. Byron Donalds (FL-19)



Rep. Jeff Duncan (SC-03)



Rep. Matt Gaetz (FL-01)




Rep. Paul Gosar (AZ-09)



Rep. Clay Higgins (LA-03)



Rep. Anna Paulina Luna (FL-13)



Rep. Mary Miller (IL-15)



Rep. Barry Moore (AL-02)



Rep. Ralph Norman (SC-05)



Rep. Andy Ogles (TN-05)



Rep. Bill Posey (FL-08)



Rep. Matt Rosendale (MT-02)



Rep. Keith Self (TX-03)

CC: House Majority Leader Steve Scalise, House Majority Whip Tom Emmer, House Appropriations Chairwoman Kay Granger