

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

November 4, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker and Majority Leader Hoyer,

We write to you requesting you permit the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to fulfill its responsibility and publish a full cost estimate for the fiscal year 2022 reconciliation bill, H.R. 5376, the Build Back Better Act, before the House of Representatives considers and votes on this legislation.

For months, Congress has been engaged in ongoing debate about what will be included in the reconciliation bill and its overall cost. While we the undersigned have serious concerns with the portions of the bill that we have seen, certainly we should all be able to agree that Members of Congress should have a full accounting of how this bill will impact spending, deficits, and debt now and in the future. To date, CBO has provided estimates for less than ten percent of the bill reported by the Budget Committee. Based on the available estimates, three authorizing committees have exceeded their respective reconciliation targets.

As we approach the end of the year without having completed the annual appropriations process as well as facing a looming debt ceiling cliff, it would be unconscionable to commit to the purported trillions of dollars that the reconciliation bill might cost without knowing its true price tag. Given that the price of this bill makes it the most expensive piece of legislation in American history, it is imperative Members of Congress are not asked to vote on it until a full cost estimate is available for their review.

The Administration claims that the plan will add nothing to the federal deficit. Given the policies that may or may not be included in the final package at this point, we find that difficult to believe. According to some estimates, the current form of the reconciliation bill would add as much as \$3 trillion to our national debt, which already sits at more than \$28 trillion.

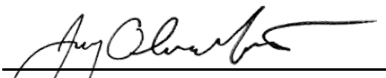
Our nation is also experiencing record levels of inflation, and many economists cite increased federal spending as a root cause. Inflation is on pace to exceed 7 percent this year – the highest it's been in forty years. Americans are facing increased costs for everyday necessities – gas prices are up 58 percent, meat prices are up 14.5 percent, clothing prices are up 10.5 percent, and coffee prices are up 6.1 percent. All Americans are experiencing this inflation crisis, particularly working-class families. As Congress considers spending trillions more of American taxpayer

dollars, then as stewards of the public trust we should not commit to do so until a full accounting of this legislation's potential fiscal impact is available, both in the short and over the long term. Giving the CBO time to provide Congress with this critical analysis will ensure we know the potential impact of this legislation before making this critical decision.

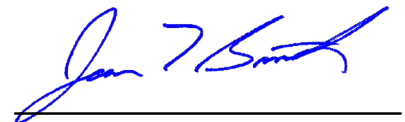
Allowing the CBO to do its job before a vote on this legislation will help answer these questions. Both the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 and House Rule XIII require a formal score of this bill prior to House consideration. It would be both imprudent and a disservice to Congress and the American people to ignore these requirements given the broad scope and reported cost of this legislation.

We thank you for your consideration of this request and hope you will give Congress and the American people a chance to know what the reconciliation bill will cost before voting on it.


Sincerely,




Jay Obernolte
Member of Congress




Jason Smith
Member of Congress



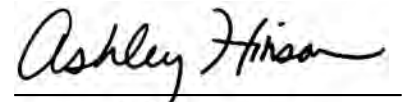
Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader



Steve Scalise
Republican Whip



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress



Bob Good
Member of Congress



Chris Jacobs
Member of Congress



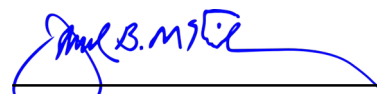
Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress



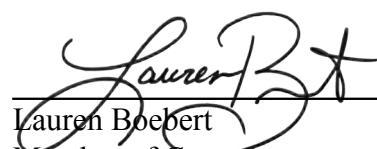
Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley P.E.
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress




Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress




Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress




Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress




Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress




Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress




Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress



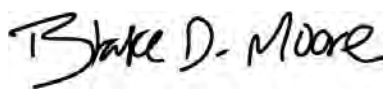
Mike Garcia
Member of Congress



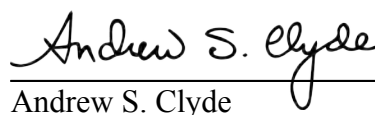
Devin Nunes
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock
Member of Congress



Blake D. Moore
Member of Congress



Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress



Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress



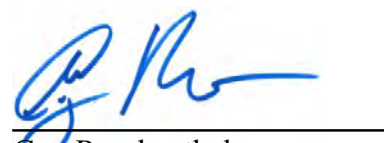
Julia Letlow
Member of Congress



Kevin Hern
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



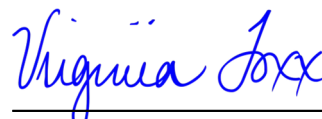
Ben Cline
Member of Congress



Robert J. Wittman
Member of Congress



Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress



Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



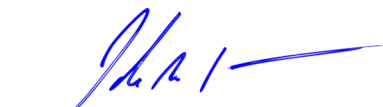
Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



John R. Curtis
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Ron Estes
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



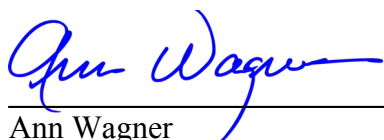
Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress



Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Dan Bishop
Member of Congress



Fred Upton
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Madison Cawthorn
Member of Congress



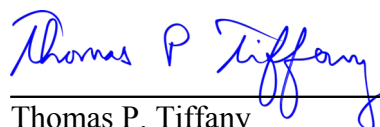
Burgess Owens
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



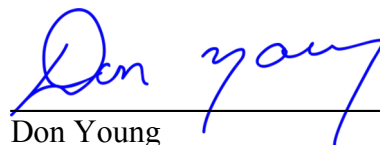
Pat Fallon
Member of Congress



Thomas P. Tiffany
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



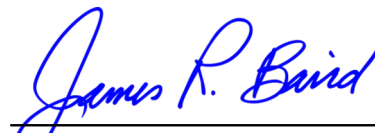
Gary J. Palmer
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



James R. Baird
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress



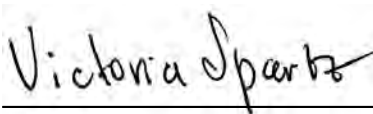
August Pfluger
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



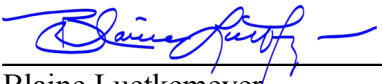
Young Kim
Member of Congress



Victoria Spartz
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress



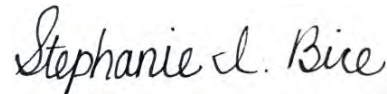
Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



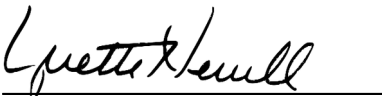
Roger Williams
Member of Congress



Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress



Jake LaTurner
Member of Congress



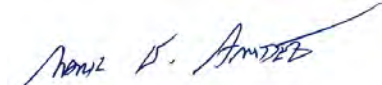
John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



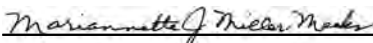
Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress



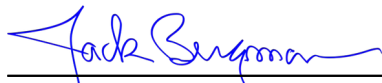
Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Mariannette Miller-Meeks,
M.D.
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



Van Taylor
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



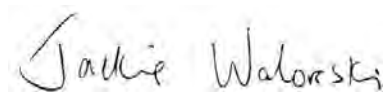
Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



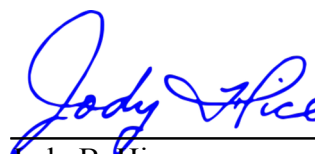
Fred Keller
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Jody B. Hice
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress



Thomas Massie
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Charles J. "Chuck"
Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress



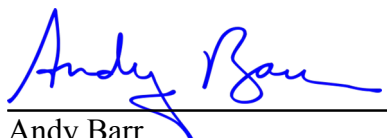
Greg Pence
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



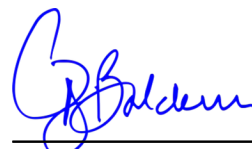
Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Garret Graves
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



KEN CALVERT
Member of Congress



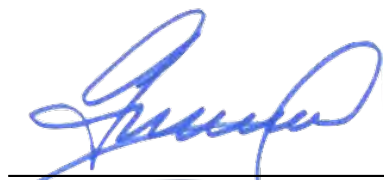
Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



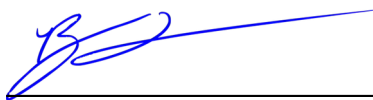
Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



Carlos A. Gimenez
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds
Member of Congress



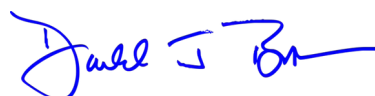
Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



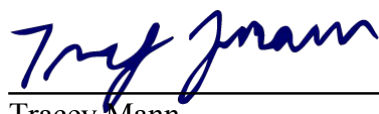
Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Tracey Mann
Member of Congress



Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Billy Long
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



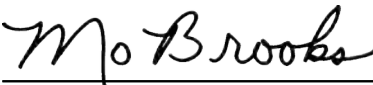
Warren Davidson
Member of Congress



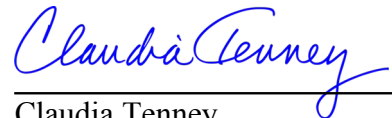
Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



Alexander X. Mooney
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress



John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



Maria Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Beth Van Duyne
Member of Congress



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz
Member of Congress



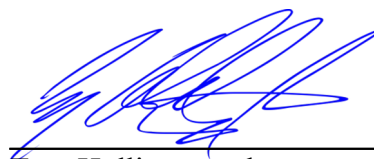
Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



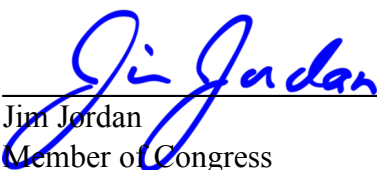
Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



Nancy Mace
Member of Congress



Trey Hollingsworth
Member of Congress



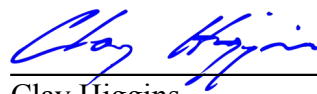
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Tom Rice
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress



Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress



John W. Rose
Member of Congress



Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress



A. Drew Ferguson IV
Member of Congress



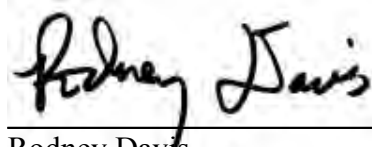
Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress



Harold Rogers
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress




French Hill
Member of Congress



John Katko
Member of Congress



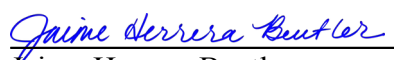
Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress




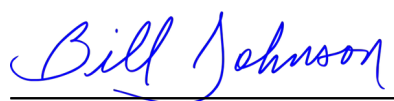
Liz Cheney
Member of Congress





Kay Granger
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



Kevin Brady
Member of Congress

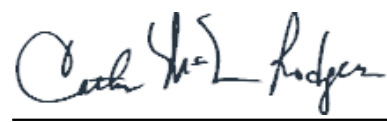

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



William R. Timmons IV
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress, FL-11


Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress


John R. Carter
Member of Congress


Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress


Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress


Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



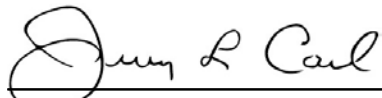
Peter Meijer M.C.
Member of Congress



Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress



Daniel Meuser
Member of Congress



Jerry L. Carl
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



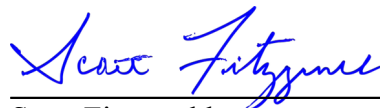
James Comer
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Mark E. Green, MD
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress



John Joyce
Member of Congress



Ronny Jackson
Member of Congress



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Lisa McClain
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Congress