December 13, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives

Dear Congressional Leadership:

   As we wrap up the year and finalize the negotiations on Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations, we urge you to include No Budget, No Pay as part of any end-of-year spending package.

   Appropriating funds is the most basic duty of Congress, but for the past 40 years, Congress has cut corners by passing short-term spending bills – Continuing Resolutions – that just keep government funded at existing levels.

   When Congress fails to pass appropriations, the American people are hurt. Just this year, American families suffered under the longest government shutdown in U.S. history. Air traffic controllers, members of the Coast Guard, and fire safety officials worked without pay, while Members of Congress continued to receive their paychecks.

   That is wrong, and we’re urging you to move forward with No Budget, No Pay before the end of the year. The concept is simple: Members of Congress should not be paid if they don’t pass appropriations. If Congress can’t do its most basic task, then Members of Congress shouldn’t get a paycheck.
This proposal has bipartisan support and is already moving through Congress. It was approved by the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee in June, and is included as part of the Prevent Government Shutdowns Act (S. 1877).

Withholding paychecks from Members of Congress who fail to pass appropriations is an important step to prevent government shutdowns, which hurt the economy and millions of everyday Americans. But it’s also an important step to promote fiscal responsibility.

We are elected to represent the citizens of our states and districts. When they don’t do their job, there are consequences, and that same standard should apply to Congress. We look forward to continuing to work with you to make important reforms so Washington works better for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Rick Scott
United States Senator

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

David A. Perdue
United States Senator

Steve Daines
United States Senator

Martha McSally
United States Senator

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

Cory Gardner
United States Senator

Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator

Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, The Honorable Charles Schumer, 
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, and The Honorable Kevin McCarthy 
December 13, 2019 
Page Three

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress

Ross Spano  
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Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress

Ron Wright  
Member of Congress

Abigail D. Spanberger  
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton  
Member of Congress

Greg Gianforte  
Member of Congress

Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress