



The Honorable John Boehner
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

According to a recent [news report](#), President Obama and you have not spoken about the impending “fiscal cliff” in nearly four months, yet in last night’s debate President Obama clearly stated that the sequester component of the fiscal cliff “will not happen.” With our national debt at more than \$16 trillion – greater than the size of our economy – and the uncertainty plaguing the economy, Americans deserve straight answers on where negotiations stand.

As you are well aware, the automatic spending cuts that are set to go into effect at the beginning of next year will not actually reduce our massive debt – the cuts only slow down the rate at which our debt will continue to grow. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke has warned that the fiscal cliff will push us back into a recession, and the Congressional Budget Office projects that this recession would send the unemployment rate over 9 percent again.

In the interest of making Washington work, we hope you will take the first step and initiate the necessary discussions with President Obama. Members of Congress and Americans alike are looking for your leadership. A recent [poll](#) conducted by Public Notice found that an overwhelming majority – 88 percent – said that the national debt has impacted their personal financial situations. Americans cannot afford the usual political gridlock.

While the upcoming congressional session may be a “lame duck” session, there is too much at stake to live up to this label and not take immediate action. We know that you understand the gravity of falling off this fiscal cliff and trust that you will take steps to reach an agreement without delay.

Sincerely,

Gretchen D.K. Hamel
Executive Director, Public Notice