



The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

According to a recent [news report](#), you and Speaker John Boehner have not spoken about the impending “fiscal cliff” in nearly four months, yet in last night’s debate you clearly stated that the sequester component of the fiscal cliff “will not happen.” With our national debt 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 aware, the automatic spending cuts 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 above 9 percent again.

In the interest of making Washington work, we hope you will take the first step and initiate the necessary discussions with Speaker Boehner. Members of Congress and the American people need your leadership at this critical time, not empty rhetoric to win a debate. 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 any longer.

While the upcoming legislative session will involve a “lame duck” Congress, 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 this situation and the enormous consequences of falling off the fiscal cliff and trust that you will make every effort to reach an agreement without delay.

Sincerely,

Gretchen D.K. Hamel  
Executive Director, Public Notice