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My Way or the Highway

Dear Friend,

President Obama and Senate Democrats continue to operate under the mantra "my way or the highway." Unless they can have exactly what they want, they are refusing to negotiate or even take up House-passed funding bills for crucial portions of the government. The House of Representatives passed 14 bills over the last 10 days to fund critical functions of the government, many of which are a matter of life and death. Yet, Senate Majority Leader Reid and President Obama still refuse to take up almost all of these funding bills, with two exceptions: the military death benefits, which the President callously withheld, and full funding for all military operations.

As a result, I must stay in Washington next week - which was originally scheduled as a district work week - to address the government shutdown. This is a shutdown because 83 percent of the federal government is in fact funded and operating. We are addressing only 17 percent of the federal government. Nevertheless, the events I had scheduled next week are cancelled because I have to be in Washington for votes. I will do my best to reschedule them after the shutdown.

One of the first funding bills I voted for was full funding for our National Park including the Grand Canyon. The Senate did not even take this up for a vote. As a result, we had to work to allow the state of Arizona and the town of Tusayan to provide temporary funding allowing the Grand Canyon to open. I applaud the can-do attitude of our state, and thank Governor Brewer and Mayor Bryan.



One of the most important funding bills for Arizona is the Border Safety and Security Act, which I voted in favor of on Thursday. This legislation funds the vital border security functions of the Department of Homeland Security. Border security shouldn't be left to the whims of those who are trying to score political points during the current slowdown. Border security is among the highest priorities for those of us who represent districts that see and feel the violence that comes from an already porous and antiquated border security system. Click [HERE](#) to read my official statement.

We Must Deal with Our Debt & Deficit

According to Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, our nation will hit its debt ceiling on October 17. It is my belief, along with many of my Republican colleagues, that we cannot, and should not, raise the debt ceiling without dealing with the drivers of our debt and deficit. After all, the federal government will collect an estimated \$3 trillion in taxes from October 1, 2013 until September 30, 2014. Simply put, the reason we cannot live within our means is that we have a serious spending problem.



President Obama and Senate Democrats' position on the debt ceiling is the same as their position on the slowdown: "my way or the highway." This is an extreme position in light of the fact that 28 of the last 55 times the debt ceiling was raised there were budget and other requirements attached. It's time for President Obama and the Senate Democrats to come to the table and help find solutions.

Help Fix Up D.C.

On Saturday morning, after votes and before leaving to fly back to Arizona for the weekend, I joined Glenn Beck, Rep. Louie Gohmert, Rep. Steve King, Rep. Michele Bachmann and Sen. Mike Lee at the "Help Fix Up D.C." day of service. Families came from across the region with rakes, garbage bags and umbrellas to clean up garbage. The failure of President Obama and Senate Majority Leader Reid to negotiate, which perpetuates the government slowdown, is also resulting in overflowing trash cans and litter strewn across our capitol city. My thanks go out to Glenn Beck and all those who pitched in to clean up this disgraceful mess.



(Rep. Gosar with Glenn Beck, Sen. Lee, and Reps. Gohmert, King and Bachmann, October 12, 2013)

Whiskey is for Drinking, Water is for Fighting

On Thursday, I spoke in defense of private property rights and state sovereignty over water resources at the Natural Resources Committee hearing. In Arizona, water means life. That is why I strongly support my friend Rep. Tipton's bipartisan Water Rights Protection Act, which will shield constituents from a federal regulatory water grab and uphold each state's sovereignty to protect its water interests.

This legislation is critical to reasserting state sovereignty over water rights and the economic viability of our western communities. Click [HERE](#) or below to watch my statement at the Natural Resources Committee hearing.



Conversations over Coffee

Before flying back to Washington on Monday afternoon, I hosted a Coffee with the Congressman event at a veteran owned small business in Goodyear called Ground Control. We had a great conversation about everything from the government slowdown to the debt ceiling debate. It's always refreshing to hear from Arizonans before heading to D.C., especially in light of the current slowdown.



(Rep. Gosar with Sean Rassass, owner of Ground Control, his wife Tara and youngest son, October 7, 2013)

A Community Hero

On Tuesday, one of my district staffers, Julie Schreiner, presented 11-year-old Elizabeth Victory with a Certificate of Achievement at the Yavapai County Board of Supervisor's meeting for her anti-bullying efforts in Yavapai City schools. Autism hasn't stopped her from achieving significant accomplishments in her efforts to eliminate bullying in our schools.



(Julie Schreiner from my staff presents Elizabeth Victory with Certificate of Achievement award, October 8, 2013)

Obamacare Malady of the Week

The verdict is in: only 7 percent of Americans think the rollout of Obamacare's healthcare exchanges went very well, according to an AP-GfK poll. Furthermore, the poll found that three-fourths of those who attempted to purchase healthcare on the exchange had problems. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

Congressional District 4: DID YOU KNOW?

In 1869, John Wesley Powell, an American explorer, led the first expedition down the Grand Canyon. What had previously been referred to as the "Big Canyon" or "Great Canyon", he called the "Grand Caynon".



(The Grand Canyon, photo from www.gorp.com)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Due to President Obama's refusal to negotiate with Congress, I must stay in Washington, D.C. to address the slowdown and associated spending issues. Regretfully, the events I had scheduled next week are cancelled and I will

reschedule them if possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

As always, you can follow everything I am working on in Arizona and Washington, D.C. through my website (<http://gosar.house.gov>) on Twitter [@repgosar](#), or through [Facebook](#) at Representative Paul Gosar.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul A. Gosar" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

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