



**Have You Had Enough?**

Dear Friend,

I don't know about you, but I'm fed up with the federal government wasting the money of hard-working taxpayers. One of my top priorities this year is to eliminate as much waste, fraud and abuse as possible through any and all means necessary. You deserve to have a lean, efficient federal government, but that's not what you have now. Although we must make tough choices to reign in spending, we can make that happen. The easiest place to start is eliminating waste, fraud and abuse. I wrote an op-ed, which appeared in Monday's online edition of *The Arizona Republic*, about ways Congress can eliminate the prolific waste within the federal bureaucracy. Click [HERE](#) to read it.

## Waste, Fraud & Abuse

Every year, \$200 billion of taxpayer money is eaten up by waste, fraud & abuse. But we can't find anything to cut?

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- \$7 billion:** the cost of military equipment destroyed rather than brought back home from Afghanistan
- \$65 million:** the amount of "emergency" relief for Hurricane Sandy spent on tourism TV commercials
- \$3.5 million:** the cost of solar panels at Manchester-Boston Airport that blinded pilots and air traffic controllers and eventually were covered up

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**Stopping Union Kickbacks**

I was happy to spearhead a Arizona Republican Delegation [letter](#) to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), which was delivered on Thursday, commending its decision to move forward with construction of the new control tower at Tucson International Airport under a competitive bidding process. Every Republican member of Arizona's Delegation signed the letter, including Reps. Trent Franks (AZ-08), Matt Salmon (AZ-05), and David Schweikert (AZ-06) as well as Sens. John McCain (R-AZ) and Jeff Flake (R-AZ).

Prior to this decision, every Democrat in Arizona's Delegation signed a [letter](#) to the FAA requesting that it impose a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) on contractors building the facility. The Democrats' reckless efforts to increase federal spending cannot be ignored. Our country is in serious financial distress and one of the reasons is wasteful spending typical of PLAs. One of the best ways to put our nation back on a fiscally sustainable path is to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse. Part of eliminating waste is discontinuing the use of frivolous, Democrat-advocated labor agreements, which do nothing but line union pockets with taxpayer money.

I applaud the FAA for using common sense and moving forward under a competitive bidding process. A PLA is nothing more than a special union kickback. These deals are both unnecessary and incredibly wasteful. Click [HERE](#) to read more and [HERE](#) to read our letter.

### **Reducing Food Stamp Waste**

On Monday, I became an original co-sponsor of the SNAP Verify Act of 2014, which would require people using an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as food stamps, to produce photo identification.

The easiest way to save taxpayer money is to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse. The most effective way to accomplish this is to require strict oversight of federal programs. As a dentist, I call the current oversight of the SNAP program toothless.

This bill provides commonsense oversight of a rapidly expanding program by requiring users of SNAP EBT cards to show their photo ID when making purchases. It only makes sense that individuals utilizing federal assistance benefits should verify their identity not only to safeguard taxpayer dollars but also to protect the integrity of the program for those who need it most. It's time to address rampant waste in the SNAP program. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

### **Saving Jobs by Reigning in the EPA**

On Tuesday, I announced my co-sponsorship of the Secret Science Reform Act of 2014, which would require the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to use public, reproducible science when proposing regulations.

This bill will eliminate the use of junk science at the EPA, which frequently uses secret studies to justify regulations that fit their job-killing agenda. Not only does this practice result in a lack of transparency, it also leads to hundreds of thousands of jobs being killed across the country by unreasonable regulations. On the heels of January's disappointing jobs report, the Obama Administration should be focused on growing the economy instead of proposing new job-killing regulations under the guise of phony science.



Additionally, hardworking taxpayers are left to pick up the tab for these expensive, and usually worthless, regulations. This bill simply requires the EPA to use scientific studies that are transparent and reproducible when justifying proposed regulations. Only in the federal bureaucracy do you have to legislate such commonsense requirements. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

### **Another Day, Another ObamaCare Delay**

Also on Monday, the Obama Administration announced a second unilateral delay of ObamaCare's employer mandate, which now won't be fully implemented for mid-size businesses until 2016.

President Obama has established a pattern of ignoring his constitutionally mandated duty to faithfully execute the law. While I welcome a delay of ObamaCare's disastrous effects - especially a permanent delay in the form of a patient-centered, free-market replacement - the Constitution does not allow the President to pick and choose which part of the law to enforce and implement. It's a tragedy that our President has become lawless; the actions of the Executive Branch are dictatorial.



This unilateral delay is further proof that the fundamentally flawed ObamaCare is not viable. I'm deeply disturbed that the President decided to allow this unilateral delay for mid-size businesses while remaining steadfast in his opposition to doing the same thing for individual Americans who have had their plans cancelled and seen their premiums skyrocket. The President and Harry Reid shut down the government in October after I and other Republicans sought a delay for individuals through the proper legislative channels. It's time for the Administration to stop picking winners and losers and either enforce the law on the books or repeal and replace ObamaCare outright. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

### **I Won't Stop Until Justice is Served**

Manuel Osorio-Arellanes, who was one of the people who murdered Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry, was sentenced to 30 years in prison on Monday. I hope this sentencing brings some degree of solace to Brian Terry's family. But justice is not yet achieved.

There are others directly involved in this murder who haven't been tried in U.S. courts and there are government officials who continue to deny responsibility for, and prior knowledge of, Operation Fast and Furious. Agent Terry's death is a stain on the federal government, and as a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, I will continue to do everything in my power to hold those officials responsible in order to prevent a tragedy like this from ever occurring again. Click [HERE](#) to read more.

### **Our Nation has a Spending Addiction**

Unfortunately, I couldn't be in D.C. to vote on the debt ceiling increase because I'm scheduled to have hip replacement surgery; I guess I'm finally paying the price of playing rugby all through college and dental school. The vote for the debt ceiling increase was set suddenly, as Congress closed early this week due to a big storm heading towards D.C. Had I been able to vote, however, I would have voted AGAINST raising the debt ceiling because it didn't contain a single reform.

Back in 2011, we reached an understanding that if we're going to raise the debt

ceiling and not jeopardize the nation's credit, then we need to attach reforms to each debt ceiling increase so that we reduce the need to constantly raise the debt ceiling and start living within our means. This increase violates those principles.

Although some called this a "clean" debt ceiling increase, there is nothing clean about borrowing another trillion dollars; this is as messy as it gets and the term "clean" is propaganda as far as I'm concerned.

The bottom line is that our nation has a spending addiction – it's past the point of a problem – when we must continually raise the debt ceiling to accommodate our dangerous spending habits. At what point does it stop? How is it possible that we couldn't include a single reform in this legislation?

I don't want our country to default but I wouldn't have voted to give the President a blank check. The federal government will collect an estimated \$3 TRILLION in taxes from October 1, 2013 until September 30, 2014. We do have the ability to live within our means and it's time we make the hard decisions necessary to make that happen.

### **Government Waste of the Week**

\$3 million: the cost for NASA to study how Congress works.

### **Congressional District 4: Did You Know?**

Peeples Valley, Arizona is named after A. H. Peeples, a gold prospector who led the group that discovered gold at Rich Hill in nearby Weaver, Arizona.



(Peeples Valley, AZ; photo courtesy Google street view)

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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