

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 9, 2013

The Honorable Jim Gerlach
U. S. House of Representatives
2442 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gerlach:

We are in the second week of the federal government shutdown, and it is having a detrimental impact on our state, local and national economies. More than 250 business groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, recently urged Congress to pass a continuing resolution because a shutdown “is not in the best interest of employers, employees, or the American people...[and would] be economically disruptive and create even more uncertainties for the U.S. economy.”

We are writing you today to enlist your support in the effort to reopen the federal government. On October 2, 2013, you said, “It is time for Congress to vote on a budget bill that gets the government back to work providing all of the services already paid for by the hard-working taxpayers in my District and across the country. If a bill comes to the floor to accomplish that goal, I will vote for it.” (Press Release). However, Speaker Boehner unfortunately is refusing to bring such a bill to the floor for a vote. That is why we ask you to sign the discharge petition for H.Res. 372 this **Saturday, October 12th** to force an up or down vote on the Senate-passed bill to reopen government -- with funding set at levels that the Speaker negotiated with the Senate and that 200 members of our caucus have also agreed to.

The non-partisan Congressional Research Service has found that “a discharge petition [that] obtains 218 signatures ...almost guarantees that supporters will have an opportunity to bring the measure to the floor.” In fact, **over the last 30 years, seven discharge petitions have received 218 signatures. In all seven cases, the majority party agreed to bring the measure to the House floor.** In addition, twelve such measures were brought to the House floor even before the discharge petition reached the full 218 signatures.

The discharge petition is an opportunity for a majority of House members – Republican and Democratic – to join together to vote on a clean funding resolution that will reopen the government, put Americans back to work, and restore needed services. We urge you to join us on **Saturday, October 12th** to sign the discharge petition to force an up or down vote to reopen the federal government.

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Sincerely,



GEORGE MILLER
Ranking Member,
Education & Workforce
Committee



CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Ranking Member,
Budget Committee



NITA LOWEY
Ranking Member,
Appropriations
Committee