



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

January 7, 2010

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

The Honorable Garnet F. Coleman
State Representative, District 147
Texas House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room GW.17
Austin, TX 78701

Dear Representative Coleman:

I have little doubt that you have heard from Texans frustrated by the path upon which the federal government has embarked. The national debt now exceeds \$12 trillion, a burden of more than \$39,000 for each man, woman and child in our country.

Worse still, this irresponsible spending has accelerated in recent years, with Congress passing bailout after bailout, new entitlement programs, and other measures without paying for them by reducing other spending. As a result, our nation is facing the prospect of unfathomable federal deficits as far as the eye can see, creating a crisis that will only be compounded by the tens of trillions of dollars of unfunded federal entitlement obligations that won't go away, as Congress simply ignores them.

Texas has wisely balanced our state budget, saved money in our Rainy Day Fund and acted in a fiscally responsible manner that has helped build the nation's healthiest and most vibrant economy. Yet all the responsible and difficult decisions that we have made will be for nothing if the federal government is allowed to continue to spend our nation into an inescapable pit of debt.

When families encounter tough times, they tighten their belts, cut spending and find ways to live within their means. It is now the time when we must collectively demand that the federal government responsibly do the same.

As such, I ask you to stand with me and call upon Congress to pass an amendment to the U.S. Constitution requiring a balanced federal budget. If Congress ignores this call, I ask that you join me in working with other states to exercise our rights to force action, as recognized by article 5 of the Constitution.

The stakes couldn't be higher, as the sheer magnitude of this debt threatens our economy, our national security, our economic competitiveness and the future prosperity of our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:mtp