

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 22, 2011

The Honorable Joseph Lieberman  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
344 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins,

I write to respectfully request that your Committee review the No Budget, No Pay Act (S. 1442). I introduced this legislation in July, and it currently awaits consideration by the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

As we approach the end of the fiscal year, we are once again reminded that the federal budget and appropriations process is broken. The Senate has not adopted a budget in more than 800 days, yet in that time, Congress adopted a healthcare bill that will cost taxpayers more than \$1 trillion, hiked discretionary spending, and increased the federal debt ceiling. Members of Congress are willfully refusing to put our nation on a path to long-term fiscal responsibility. As long as this is the case, Americans will continue to be frustrated and angry with Washington's inability to produce real results. We must find the will to end political gridlock and solve the federal government's very serious budget problems. Until then, Washington will continue its dysfunctional addiction to short-term, short-sighted funding measures.

The No Budget, No Pay Act would bring the reality facing many Americans to Congress. S. 1442 requires that the U.S. Senate and House Representatives pass a budget by the beginning of each fiscal year. Failure to do so would result in the loss of pay until Congress passes a binding budget resolution.

My home state of Nevada is currently enduring highest unemployment rate in the country. I hear from individuals who are laboring to make ends meet as I travel my state. In

Nevada, and in the states you represent, countless families are staying up late to work out a budget around their kitchen table. At a time when American families' pocketbooks are getting tighter, we must lead by example and get our own fiscal house in order.

I respectfully encourage you to show the American people that the U.S. Senate is serious about budget reform and fiscal responsibility by bringing S. 1442 up for consideration in your Committee at your earliest convenience. Thank you in advance for considering my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dean Heller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dean" and the last name "Heller" clearly legible.

DEAN HELLER  
U.S. Senator