

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 4, 2013

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Chairman  
Senate Rules Committee  
305 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
Ranking Member  
Senate Rules Committee  
305 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Schumer and Ranking Member Roberts,

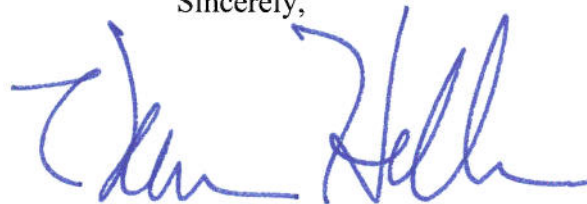
As the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress begins, questions regarding the fiscal state of the federal government have been one of the major topics we have addressed. Like you, I believe the U.S. Senate must lead by example.

In 1995, the House of Representatives hired outside counsel to audit the operations of the House, and it was found that accounting procedures were lacking and incomplete; House Rules were inconsistently applied and contradicted; and various House support services were either wasteful or unnecessary. The audit's recommendations and existing reforms implemented thereafter resulted in saving an estimated \$20 million.

That was nearly two decades ago, and to our knowledge, the Senate has never initiated such a procedure. I encourage you, as the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, to look into this proposal. I stand ready to work with you to develop recommendations to the Senate for areas in which we can eliminate wasteful spending. By having a full understanding of how and where funding within the Senate is allocated, we can create accountability for U.S. taxpayer dollars while also taking an important step toward a fiscally austere Congress.

Thank you for the opportunity to contact you. I look forward to working with the Majority and specifically your Committee to root out waste in the U.S. Senate.

Sincerely,



DEAN HELLER  
U.S. Senator