



★ The Blue Dog Coalition ★

September 28, 2005

President George W. Bush
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you know, the Blue Dog Coalition has long expressed tremendous concern over the rapid increase in our national debt resulting from large structural deficits that are projected to continue well into the future. Today, our nation's long term fiscal security is growing even bleaker with the addition of billions of dollars in emergency supplemental funds needed to rebuild the Gulf Region in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

As such, the undersigned members of the Blue Dog Coalition urge you to immediately call for an emergency bipartisan budget summit to get our nation's fiscal house in order.

Mr. President, the Blue Dog Coalition believes that the United States should not be forced to borrow funds from foreign nations to finance our reconstruction efforts. We owe it to the American people to act responsibly by sitting down together and devising a serious plan to keep America from going even deeper into debt.

We must also assure the country that every dime of their money is being spent appropriately – in the Gulf Region and throughout the federal government. Currently, according to the General Accounting Office (GAO) 16 of 23 major federal agencies are unable to produce reliable, useful, and timely financial information. Americans are losing faith in our nation's financial situation. If we're asking them to trust the government to potentially spend over \$200 billion to rebuild areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, we must assure them we are up to the task and that we will act responsibly.

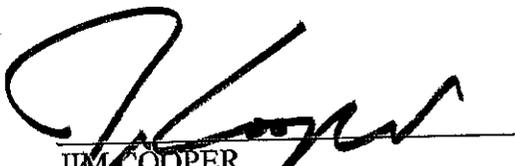
Earlier this year, the Blue Dog Coalition offered a 12 Step Plan for curing our nation's addiction to deficit spending that required, among other things, all federal agencies pass clean audits, a balanced budget, and the setting aside of a rainy day fund to be used in the event of natural disaster. We recognize that this is only one of the many items that need to be discussed, but it is our conviction that we must first stop the hemorrhaging of red ink.

Mr. President, we again urge you to immediately convene an emergency bipartisan budget summit. We can and must do better. We look forward to hearing from you.

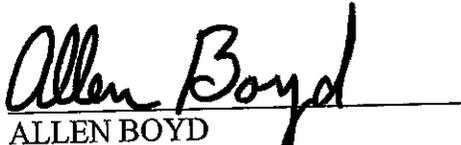
Sincerely,

DENNIS CARDOZA
Co-Chair Blue Dog Coalition

JIM MATHESON
Co-Chair Blue Dog Coalition


JIM COOPER
Co-Chair Blue Dog Coalition


MIKE ROSS
Member of Congress

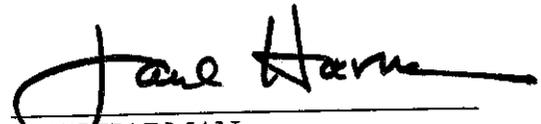

ALLEN BOYD
Member of Congress


JOHN TANNER
Member of Congress


BEN CHANDLER
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JOHN BARROW
Member of Congress


JOHN SALAZAR
Member of Congress

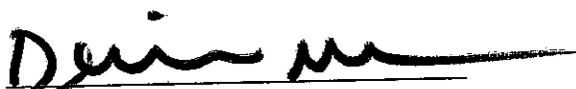

JANE HARMAN
Member of Congress


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MARION BERRY
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ADAM SCHIFF
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Member of Congress

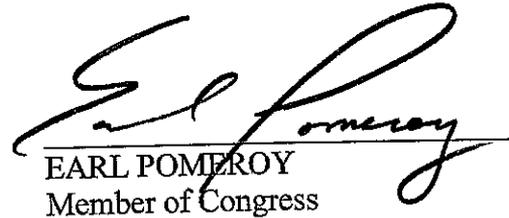

GENE TAYLOR
Member of Congress

Ed Case
ED CASE
Member of Congress

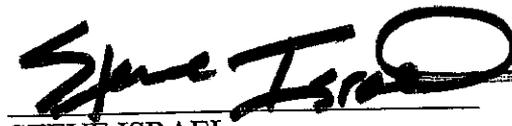

TIM HOLDEN
Member of Congress

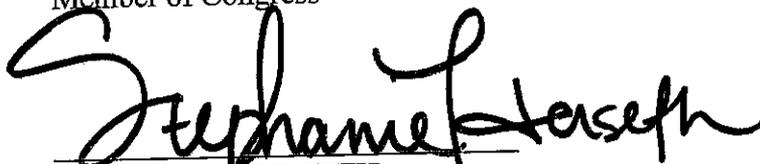

MIKE MCINTYRE
Member of Congress

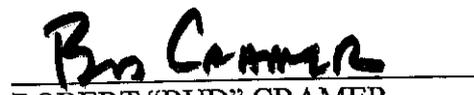

SANFORD BISHOP
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EARL POMEROY
Member of Congress


DAN BOREN
Member of Congress

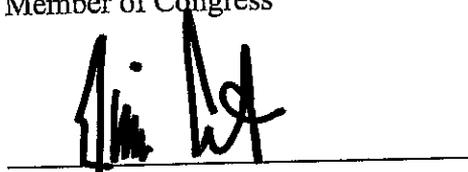

STEVE ISRAEL
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JOE BACA
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