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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

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August 11, 2011

The Honorable Patty Murray

Co-Chair

Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction

448 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling

Co-Chair

Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction

129 Cannon House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

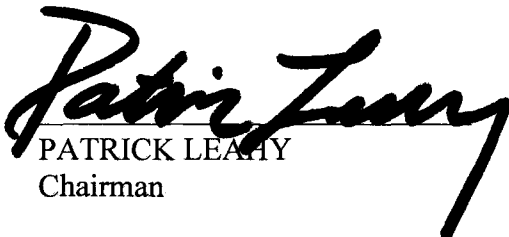
Dear Senator Murray and Congressman Hensarling:

I congratulate you on your recent appointments as the bipartisan Co-Chairs of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction ("Committee"). As you commence the important work of this Committee, I urge you to carefully consider and adopt rules of procedure for the Committee that will ensure transparency and accountability to the American people.

The ongoing debate in Congress about the national debt has made clear that we must find ways to work together, across party lines and ideologies, to address the challenges facing our Nation. An open and transparent process for the work of the Committee is vital to ensuring that the recommendations of the Committee will have the confidence and support of the American people. Open government is neither a Democratic issue, nor a Republican issue – it is truly an American value and virtue that we all must uphold. It is in this bipartisan spirit, that I urge you to adopt transparency measures for the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction that reflect this American value.

Again, I congratulate you on your appointments and I look forward to working with you to ensure that the Committee's work is open and accountable to the American public.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY
Chairman