

March 15, 2010

Dear Friend,

Our nation stands at a truly historic crossroads. Down one path stands uncontrolled government spending, crushing taxes, and unsustainable debt. This is the path the current leadership in Washington is taking us down.

They have already taken an unsustainable budget outlook and made it far worse. They have pushed an unrelenting and wide-ranging expansion of government including:

- A failed, debt-financed economic “stimulus”;
- An attempt to control the Nation’s energy sector;
- Increasing manipulation and regulation of housing and financial markets;
- The planned takeover of Americans’ health care which is already heavily burdened, manipulated, and distorted by government spending and regulation.

This domineering and burdensome “Big Government” approach brings taxes, rules, and mandates . . . generates excessive levels of spending, deficits, and debt . . . leads to economic stagnation and declining standards of living . . . and fosters a culture in which self-reliance is a vice and dependency a virtue -- and as a result, the entire country weakens from within.

I find this unacceptable and I know you do, too.

That’s why I hope you’ll stand with me and support my comprehensive, alternative approach to the Nation’s most pressing domestic priorities, which I call **A Roadmap for America’s Future**.

I first introduced A Roadmap for America’s Future in 2008 and recently updated it to reflect the dramatic decline in our nation’s economic and fiscal condition over the last two years.

It is a comprehensive legislative proposal consisting of specific policies supported by Congressional Budget Office estimates of its fiscal and economic consequences. And **it is based on a fundamentally different vision from the one now prevailing in Washington.**

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My proposal focuses government on its proper role. It restrains government spending. It rejuvenates the vibrant market economy that made America the envy of the world. And it restores an American character rooted in individual initiative.

If you agree that this is the path we should choose, I'd be honored to have your support.

Your contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1,000 or more will signal your support for *A Roadmap for America's Future* and my fiscally conservative leadership.

Specifically, *A Roadmap for America's Future* addresses the following:

- **Health Care.** It provides universal access to affordable health coverage, not by expanding government, but by reinforcing the role of consumers and providers -- patients and doctors -- in a truly competitive marketplace. Additionally, the plan takes on the necessary task of restructuring the government's medical entitlements, making them sustainable for the long term.
- **Retirement Security.** It saves and strengthens Social Security, making the program sustainable for the long run, and helping expand investments needed for economic growth. For people 55 years of age or older, The Roadmap makes no changes to the current Medicare of Social Security programs. Individuals at or near retirement will not see a change in their benefits. For those under the age of 55, the Medicare reforms I propose provide future beneficiaries with health coverage options just like the program enjoyed by Members of Congress. Similarly, my plan to make Social Security solvent only applies to people under the age of 55. It provides future retirees with the option to either stay in the traditional government-run system or to enter a system of guaranteed personal accounts. People choosing the reformed system select from a handful of low-risk, government-regulated options . . . just as Members of Congress and Federal employees do.
- **Tax Policy.** It offers an alternative to today's needlessly complex and inefficient tax code, providing the option of a simplified mechanism that better promotes and rewards work, saving, and investment.
- **Job Training.** It helps the Nation's workforce prepare for success in the global economy by transforming 49 job training programs, scattered across eight agencies, into a flexible, dynamic program which is focused on results, and is accompanied by clear measures of transparency and accountability. The plan requires the development of performance measures, and gives each State the option to consolidate funding into one program, if such an approach can be shown to improve outcomes and achieve job training goals.

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Let me be very clear, this proposal does not attempt to abandon commitments Americans established over the past century -- nor does it seek to dismantle government.

A Roadmap to America's Future recognizes that government has a necessary role in supporting the institutions through which Americans live their lives, and in providing a safety net for those who face financial or other hardships.

My approach is based on the premise that **government's principal role is to maintain the freedoms through which individuals can pursue their own destinies.**

Currently, our nation is careening down a path of uncontrolled Federal Government spending, unsustainable entitlement growth, and crushing levels of taxes and debt.

If we resign ourselves to this as Democrats clearly have, our health and retirement security programs will grow themselves into extinction; our debt will explode and cripple our economy's ability to compete -- let alone lead -- in the 21st century marketplace; and our failure will condemn future generations to declining standards of living.

My plan transforms the Federal Government to meet the challenges of the 21st century, and to restore our Nation's proud, long-held legacy of leaving the next generation better off.

As one of Wisconsin's most active fiscal conservatives, I know this a philosophy and agenda with which you agree. That's why I am reaching out to you for support.

With the prospect of facing my toughest re-election battle to date, I'm counting on the generous support of committed fiscal conservatives from across the Badger State to help me win another term. Your contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$500, \$1,000 or more will help keep me in Congress fighting for a brighter future for all Americans.

The Democrats are boasting that this is the year they will finally silence my fiscally conservative voice. With control of Congress at stake in November, we must do everything we can to defend this important Wisconsin congressional seat.

As a fifth generation Wisconsin native, my commitment to this state runs deep . . . as does my commitment to our shared values.

That's why it's so rewarding to serve as the Ranking Member of the House Budget Committee, where **I am leading the fight to bring fiscal discipline and accountability to the federal government.**

As a senior member of the House Ways and Means Committee, which has jurisdiction

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over tax policy, Social Security, health care and trade laws, I am focused on addressing our long-term fiscal crisis: the explosion of entitlement spending.

It is truly an honor to represent the state of Wisconsin in the United States Congress and as long as I have that honor, I will continue to lead the fight for fiscal discipline in Washington. But I need your help.

If you support my action-oriented, commonsense conservative leadership, **I would appreciate your help in this important campaign.** Thank you in advance for helping me set the stage for re-election victory this November.

Sincerely,

Paul Ryan
United States Congressman
Wisconsin

P.S. **We are at a crossroads, and we, as a Nation, simply can not afford to go down the wrong path.** Won't you help me in my quest to bring true fiscal reform and accountability to our country? Will you please show your support for my "Roadmap for America's Future" by returning a contribution of \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1,000 or more in the envelope provided, today?