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The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
128 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
146-A Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Vice Chairman Cochran,

Thank you for your efforts to finish the FY11 appropriations process while addressing the need to reduce federal spending. I appreciate your dedication to this important work. Today the Senate was faced with voting for two competing Continuing Resolutions. One made drastic cuts to programs that I support while the other didn't go far enough in addressing the ever-increasing deficit. I believe there is room for compromise between these two proposals.

I voted for H.R. 1 because I want to send a clear signal that I'm serious about reducing the deficit, and even though you were not the authors of this legislation, I want you to understand my concerns as we move forward to finish a bill before March 18. I feel that certain programs were unfairly targeted and zeroed out where reductions may have been more appropriate.

I am a vocal supporter of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, the Strengthening Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Program, and the Weatherization Assistance Program among others that are cut by H.R. 1. I believe Planned Parenthood provides vital services to those in need and disagree with their funding cuts contained in the bill.

I ask that you consider these programs going forward to determine if there is room for allowing continued funding. By zeroing out certain programs, some entities will be forced to close their doors because of how reliant they are on the federal government. Nevertheless, I support the need to reduce spending in both discretionary and mandatory spending. Once we pass a long-term CR, I hope that we can turn our attention to mandatory programs that contribute most to our nation's deficit.

Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator