



January 24, 2011

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Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I am writing to urge that you oppose H.R. 38 which would irresponsibly slash federal spending back to FY 2008 spending levels, cutting up to \$60 billion from the FY 2011 budget.

The worst recession since the Great Depression has resulted in this next fiscal year shaping up to be the states' most difficult budget year on record with 44 states and the District of Columbia projecting budget shortfalls totaling \$125 billion. Now is not the time to restrict investments in critical state and local government programs that support jobs and services, including health, education, transportation and social services, that are critical to working families struggling to be self-sufficient. Restricting federal investments too soon following the Great Depression was counter-productive, causing America to dive back into a deeper economic downturn and unemployment spiked.

The fiscal path forward must be driven by the goals of creating jobs and strengthening our nation's economy rather than indiscriminately setting spending caps. States have slashed budgets and reduced services already to address budget shortfalls, even with federal assistance. When states cut spending, they lay off employees, cancel contracts with vendors, eliminate or lower payments to businesses and nonprofit organizations that provide direct services and cut benefit payments to individuals. In all of these circumstances, the companies and organizations that would have received government payments have less money to spend on salaries and benefits, further draining states' economies.

I urge you to oppose H.R. 38 in order to protect and promote economic recovery and job growth.

Sincerely,

Charles M. Loveless
Legislative Director

CML:blg

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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