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Legislative Alert: Cut, Cap and Balance Act of 2011 (H.R. 2560)

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AFL-CIO

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Abstract
[Excerpt]
On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I am writing to urge you to vote against the "Cut, Cap and Balance Act" of 2011 (H.R. 2560),

Despite a continuing jobs crisis and an unemployment rate of 9.2 percent, H.R. 2560 would require spending cuts of $111 billion in FY 2012, which the non-partisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates would cost roughly 700,000 jobs.

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Comments
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July 18, 2011

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I am writing to urge you to vote against the “Cut, Cap and Balance Act” of 2011 (H.R. 2560).

Despite a continuing jobs crisis and an unemployment rate of 9.2 percent, H.R. 2560 would require spending cuts of $111 billion in FY 2012, which the non-partisan Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates would cost roughly 700,000 jobs.

Moreover, in future years H.R. 2560 would cap total federal government spending at levels that can only be achieved by slashing Social Security, Medicare, unemployment insurance, student loans, and the social safety net generally. While Social Security, Medicare, and veterans’ programs would be exempted from sequestration, it is not realistic to expect that these programs could escape cuts as Congress struggles to avoid sequestration.

Finally, H.R. 2560 would hold a debt limit increase hostage to passage of an extreme and radical constitutional amendment that would protect millionaires and billionaires from having to pay their fair share of higher taxes in order to reduce the deficit. The specified constitutional amendment would require a two-thirds majority in both houses of Congress to enact any increase in taxes on anybody, and two-thirds majorities on tax legislation are extraordinarily rare.

The most urgent problem facing our economy right now is the jobs crisis. Instead of doing something to resolve that crisis and put Americans back to work, the House Republican leadership is offering extremist legislation that would increase unemployment, lead to Social Security and Medicare benefit cuts, and protect millionaires and billionaires from shared sacrifice at the expense of the middle class.

For the above reasons, the AFL-CIO urges you to vote against H.R. 2560 and to focus instead on enacting much-needed legislation to resolve the jobs crisis by investing in a 21st century infrastructure, transitioning to a clean energy economy, and rebuilding the economy that Wall Street helped destroy.

Sincerely,

William Samuel, Director
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT