

This week in Washington, DC, the critical discussion on the economy and spending continued. The Appropriations Committee began its work to craft legislation to continue the federal government's operations after March 4, 2011, when the current law expires. As we see the proposals come out, there are tough decisions to be made within the next few weeks about what we need to do to get government spending under control. Simply continuing at current levels is not acceptable. We are where we are today with the current deficit and the highest debt in U.S. history because of the bad policies in place. However, as we move forward, we must be thoughtful but adamant that we not leave our children and grandchildren with burdensome debt, and that we dedicate the resources necessary to defend our nation. That is our duty.

In the House Chamber, we considered legislation to foster economic growth by removing regulatory burdens and red tape that saddle businesses with extra costs to operate. The legislation passed by the House gives responsibility to the committees of the House to conduct strict oversight, review current policies and those being proposed, and looking for regulations that are already burdening businesses. I believe reining in spending and creating more certainty for businesses big and small is key to getting our economy moving again. By breaking down barriers for businesses, they are able to create jobs. And more jobs will give individuals and families an opportunity for steady income while growing our overall economy.

As we continue to have debates about issues such as the economy, and what to do about federal spending, I hope you will continue to be in touch with me about your thoughts and ideas. If you specialize in a certain area, consider participating in one of the First District Advisory Councils. I meet with the First District Advisory Councils on a regular basis and count on their feedback pertaining to certain issues, such as the Health Care, Veterans, Disability and more. The First District Congressional Youth Forum is also a great way for high school students to be engaged on the issues. More information on all of these and more is available on my congressional website, <http://www.wittman.house.gov>.

If you simply want to share your thoughts, please also email me on my website or call my office at 202-225-4261.