



May 19, 2006

Dear Friends:

This week, by a narrow 218 to 210 vote, House Republicans passed [a \\$2.7 trillion budget for Fiscal Year 2007](#) that increases the deficit by more than \$348 billion. For the fifth year in a row, House Republicans raised the Debt Limit – a \$3.7 trillion increase since 2001 – a legacy of debt that will be forced onto future generations.

This reckless Republican budget continues massive tax giveaways for the wealthiest, meanwhile making painful cuts to health care, education, veteran services and the environment in order to pay for the tax cuts for the wealthiest. Between 2007 and 2011, the Republican budget will result in devastating deficits totaling \$1.1 trillion. But that's only part of the story. The budget provides for no funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan past 2007. Nor does it address tax issues facing middle class families – such as the alternative minimum tax.

I joined my Democratic colleagues in opposing the Republican budget and supporting [common-sense, fiscally responsible alternative budget for the American people](#) that truly represents our values and ideals and properly protects our future generations by balancing the budget by 2012 and returning to pay-as-you-go budget rules.

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Betty McCollum  
Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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