



U.S. House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
Washington, DC 20515

January 16, 2015

The Honorable K. Michael Conaway
Chairman
House Committee on Agriculture
1301 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Conaway:

As Chair of the House Budget Committee, I look forward to working with you to enact the most positive work product possible. To that end, we are striving to ensure the greatest amount of communication between our committees and adequate notice when deadlines may affect your work.

Under current law and House Rules, standing committees are required to submit to the Committee on the Budget their views and estimates after the submission of the President's budget. Since it is expected the President's budget will be delivered to Congress on Monday, February 2, the statutory deadline, I am respectfully requesting that all standing committees submit their views and estimates to the Committee on the Budget in regards to the fiscal year 2016 budget on or before Friday, February 20, 2015.

We all recognize how excessive federal spending and debt continue to stifle economic growth in the near term, while also creating an economic climate that diminishes our children and grandchildren's futures. Therefore, both the House Republican Conference and the Leadership have instructed the Committee on the Budget to produce a budget resolution that outlines major deficit reduction and balances the federal budget within ten years. In order to meet this important goal, the Committee on the Budget will be required to identify approximately \$5 trillion in budgetary savings over that period.

The Budget Committee needs your committee's help and guidance in developing this historic budget resolution which must be built upon a fiscal foundation of reforming outdated or ineffective programs, eliminating wasteful spending, being strong stewards of taxpayers' resources, and articulating policies that encourage a robust and job-creating economy. In turn, I urge your committee to provide the Committee on the Budget with your views on ways to reduce federal spending the country can no longer afford, both authorized spending and direct spending, to assist us in outlining the reforms needed to reach our shared goals.

It is also essential that prior to the official submission of your committee's views and estimates, your staff communicate continuously with Budget Committee staff to share new ideas for budgetary savings and reflect upon past budget assumptions that fall within your committee's jurisdiction. I encourage these informal discussions between our committees' staff to begin immediately.

The Budget Committee has set the February 20, 2015 deadline for views and estimates in order to ensure your committee's views are submitted in a timely fashion and are considered fully as the Committee on the Budget prepares the budget resolution. Too many times in the past, the formal submission of views and estimates came too late to be of any real value in the budget making process.

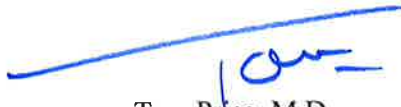
Under §301(d) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 and House Rule X, clause 4(f), each legislative committee must submit views and estimates on all matters within its jurisdiction. Section 708(b) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2014, H. Con. Res. 25 (113th Congress), as deemed in force by section 113 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, Public Law No. 113-67, requires each authorizing committee to include in its views and estimates letter recommendations on programs whose funding should be reduced or eliminated. Please be advised that the House Parliamentarian has ruled that views and estimates must be approved by your committee in an open meeting and that minority members must have an opportunity to submit minority views.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this important matter, and look forward to receiving your views and estimates by Friday, February 20, 2015.

Committees are requested to submit a written original with signature and an electronic copy (Word format only). Please forward your views and estimates to Jonathan Romito, Counsel, Committee on the Budget, 309 Cannon HOB. Any questions you may have with regard to this matter may be directed to the same, at extension 6-7270.

Please don't hesitate to give me a call or send me an email if I may be of any assistance in this activity. I'm honored to serve with you in our effort to move our great country forward.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Price", is written over a horizontal line.

Tom Price, M.D.
Chairman
Committee on the Budget

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, possibly reading "Chantz!", is located in the bottom left corner of the page.