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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 11, 2013

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I am greatly disappointed that your Fiscal Year 2014 budget request lacks a credible proposal to address the damaging effects of sequestration, which will hollow out our military and weaken our national security. As you know, I voted against the 2011 Budget Control Act because I knew we would be right where we are today – trillions more in debt and no leadership on solving our government's long-term spending problem.

Last year, you firmly stated that the sequestration cuts "...will not happen." In March, those spending cuts were set in motion to cut \$43 billion from defense operations this year. Nevertheless, as recently as last month I remained hopeful that your visit to the Capitol to meet with Members of the House of Representatives signaled a renewed effort to produce a bipartisan plan to address the arbitrary sequestration cuts and put our country on a path to fiscal responsibility. Unfortunately, that was not the case.

Your budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2014 was yet another opportunity to put real solutions on the table to avert the impact of sequestration and rein in out-of-control spending. However, the budget request offers sketchy details with phantom savings, and includes previously offered tax increases that have been rejected by both the House and Senate. Further, your budget does not restore the sequestration cuts, but instead leaves twenty percent of the reductions in place, risking our national security. And the budget request still adds \$8.2 trillion to our national debt.

General Martin Dempsey, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has stated that sequestration would put our military on a path where the "force is so degraded and so unready" that it would be "immoral to use the force." In my Dayton community, as many as 13,000 civilian employees at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the largest single-site employer in the state of Ohio, may be furloughed. Mr. President, these cuts affect families with children in college, house payments to make – lives that will be deeply impacted as a result of your sequestration cuts.

I assure you, Congress is not alone in awaiting your leadership. As a result of sequestration our servicemembers, defense civilian employees, and their families are facing great uncertainty. Mr. President, it is my hope that you will put forth credible solutions and work with Congress to deal with sequestration, and restore stability to the lives of the thousands of Department of Defense civilian workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael R. Turner".

Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress