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Congress of the United States

February 14, 2011

Chair
Select Intelligence Oversight Panel
Committee on Appropriations

Committee on Education
and Labor

Permanent Select Committee
on Intelligence

Committee on Natural Resources

The Honorable John Boehner
Office of the Speaker
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

Dear Speaker Boehner:

I share your concern about our nation's budget deficit and the need for to work together to get our nation's fiscal house in order. I remain concerned about proposals to flat fund or cut funding across the board. When American families sit down to balance their checkbook they take a thoughtful look at their income and outgo and make decisions based on their families' needs. We in Congress need to do the same. We should not spend indiscriminately. Rather, we should work together to take a thoughtful, fact-based approach to eliminating duplicative or wasteful programs and costly tax expenditures that are inefficient and cause market distortions. By doing so we can pay down our deficit and maintain vital investments that benefit all Americans and our economy.

I respectfully request that you work with me to end the F-35 alternate engine program, which neither Secretary Gates nor the President wants. Terminating this wasteful program would save at least \$1.9 billion.

I ask that you bring legislation to the House floor this week to strike funding for the F-35 alternate engine program and use the \$1.9 billion in savings to help reduce the national debt.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rush Holt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress