Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

March 18, 2014

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
House Appropriations Committee
HT-2, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Cole, and Ranking Members Lowey and Wasserman Schultz:
Sincerely,

We write to request that the following language be added to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Legislative Branch Appropriations Act:

"None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to purchase first-class or premium airline travel in contravention of sections 301-10.122 through 301-10.124 of title 41 of the Code of Federal Regulation."

Efficient travel to and from congressional districts contributes to effective execution of the constitutional and official duties of members of Congress. As with all federal spending, Member's Representational Allowance funds are taxpayer dollars. As such, the use of these funds must be exercised with the utmost efficiency and transparency. A loophole currently exists that allows members of Congress to fly first-class at the expense of the taxpayer.

Members of Congress are public servants of the people and shouldn't be considered a privileged class. As such, we must be judicious in the travel expenses that are paid for with federal funds. Luxury airfare accommodations utilizing taxpayer monies would seem inappropriate in any fiscal climate, but at a time of soaring deficits and with a federal debt in excess of $17 trillion, such expenditures are especially wasteful. The requested language allows for reasonable exceptions like accommodating a disability or other substantiated medical need. The requested language seeks to codify language that is in line with requirements for travel by employees in the

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Executive Branch. If federal restrictions prohibit members of our military from traveling first-class, this same standard should also apply to Members of Congress.

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership in the Fiscal Year 2015 appropriations process.

Sincerely,

Paul Gosar
United States House of Representatives

Raul Ruiz
United States House of Representatives

Walter Jones
United States House of Representatives