



ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

2425 Wilson Boulevard • Arlington, Virginia 22201-3385 • (703) 841-4300

General Gordon R. Sullivan
United States Army (Ret.)
President

September 14, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
1011 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Minority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Speaker, Senator McConnell, Ms. Pelosi, and Senator Reid:

The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) urges you to work together to avoid an extended continuing resolution (CR) or a government shutdown in Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16).

During the first part of this year, there was reason for optimism that Congress would return to regular order and pass the authorization and appropriations bills on time. However, I note with disappointment that once again an impasse has been reached over FY16 funding levels. Members of Congress have increasingly alluded to the possibility of an extended, or even a year-long, CR.

As you know, an extended CR would be extremely detrimental to our Army, our national security and our economy. The inefficiency created by a CR wastes significant amounts of taxpayer money. Further, a long-term CR increases the risk to our soldiers because it reduces our Army's flexibility to respond to pressing operational needs. Finally, it reduces American global stature when we repeatedly demonstrate governmental dysfunction instead of regular order.

Our country needs to avoid a government shutdown with a short CR, followed immediately by a multi-year budget deal that will create stability and efficiency in our spending. I implore you to begin negotiations now and find a budget compromise that both chambers of Congress can pass and the President will sign into law.

Thank you for your service to our country and your attention to this letter.

Sincerely



GORDON R. SULLIVAN
General, USA Retired

Re: Letter Urging Avoidance of Extended Continuing Resolution or Government Shutdown

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CC:

Denis McDonough, Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff

The Honorable Ash Carter, Secretary of Defense

The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Harold Rogers, Chairman, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable John McCain, Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee

The Honorable Mac Thornberry, Chairman, House Armed Services Committee

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Vice Chairwoman, Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Nita Lowey, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Jack Reed, Ranking Member, Senate Armed Services Committee

The Honorable Adam Smith, Ranking Member, House Armed Services Committee