

**Congress of the United States**  
**Committee on the Budget**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 8, 2009

Dear Colleague,

The new year brings considerable challenges for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress and President-elect Obama. Just two weeks before Inauguration Day, our nation is faced with the difficult task of turning our economy around, while continuing to endure the stresses caused by war, and increased international competition.

At the same time, a fiscal crisis looms on the horizon. According to the recent Financial Report of the United States Government, the unfunded liabilities of the federal government total \$56 trillion, with this situation worsening by \$2-3 trillion each and every year. The national debt has also risen to over \$10 trillion and will continue to increase significantly. We must act now to address our fiscal challenges or face an economic disaster that will linger for generations, according to many leading economists.

**To better understand the looming crisis, we bring to your attention a special screening of a 30-minute version the feature documentary *I.O.U.S.A.* followed by a panel discussion with the Honorable David M. Walker (Peter G. Peterson Foundation President & CEO and Former U.S. Comptroller General) and the Honorable Maurice McTigue (Mercatus Center at George Mason Vice President).**

*I.O.U.S.A.* helps demystify the nation's financial practices and policies through conversations with average American taxpayers, government officials and top business leaders. The film follows Walker as he crisscrosses the country explaining America's unsustainable fiscal policies, and features candid interviews with Warren Buffett, Alan Greenspan, Paul O'Neill, Robert Rubin and Paul Voleker. It has garnered rave reviews from critics, receiving a nomination for the prestigious Critics Choice Award, and making the shortlist for an Oscar nomination for Best Documentary Feature.

We hope you will make time to attend or send your staff to review this critical and timely documentary. Please mark your calendar with the following details:

**What:** Special screening of a 30-minute version of *I.O.U.S.A.* and panel discussion featuring the Honorable David M. Walker and the Honorable Maurice McTigue.


**Where:** Senate Budget Committee Hearing Room, 624 Dirksen Senate Office Building.

**When:** Monday, January 12, 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm.

Sincerely,

  
Paul Ryan  
Member of Congress

  
Jim Cooper  
Member of Congress

  
Allen Boyd  
Member of Congress

  
Frank Wolf  
Member of Congress