



# HARRY MITCHELL

Representing Arizona's 5th district

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Dear Friends,

As you may know, I have often expressed concern about the level of spending that has taken place in Washington in recent years by both parties, and I am working to make Washington more fiscally responsible.

For the past three years, I've [led the fight to block the automatic pay raise](#) for members of Congress. When the country is facing significant economic challenges and Arizona families are finding it more difficult to make ends meet, it's simply irresponsible for members of Congress to raise their own pay. This year, we successfully [blocked the automatic pay raise](#), saving millions. The previous two years, I have [donated my pay raises to charity](#).



I've also called for greater accountability for taxpayers. Earlier this year, I [voted against the release of the second half of the Troubled Asset Relief Program \(TARP\) funds](#) because I believe the Treasury department owes the American people more information about how their money is being spent and I also voted against the auto bailout because I don't think it's a good deal for taxpayers to keep auto companies building more cars that people aren't buying.

I've also been a critic of government spending that we can't pay for or afford. After opposing the budget for the third year in a row and [voting against the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus appropriations bill](#), I recently voted against more than \$206 billion in spending

during House consideration of the 2010 appropriations bills.

While protecting important investments that our nation must make, I believe that we must work on deficit reduction. That is why I've cosponsored the bipartisan Securing America's Future Economy Commission Act, otherwise known as the "SAFE" Act. If enacted, this bill would establish a bipartisan commission, much like the 9/11 Commission, to make recommendations about reducing our national debt, as well as explore the increasingly significant implications of foreign ownership of our national debt. The commission would produce a legislative proposal to Congress and the President. By limiting partisan political intrusions into a critical national policy debate, the 9/11 Commission was instrumental in helping achieve vitally important reforms in our national security. I believe we need to do the same to address the national debt.

When I ran for Congress, I promised I'd be an independent voice for Arizona. Your feedback is important to me, and I hope that in the coming weeks and months ahead, you will continue to [provide me with your input and feelings](#) on the important issues being debated in Congress.

Sincerely,



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If you wish to contact me, please do so at <http://mitchell.house.gov>. Please **do NOT** reply to this message.

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