

RON BARBER
8TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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The Honorable Barack Obama
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
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The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear President Obama, Speaker Boehner, Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader Pelosi, and Minority Leader McConnell:

Since I came to Congress just 6 months ago, I have heard from thousands of Southern Arizonans who are concerned about the impact of the pending budget cuts on their families and businesses. As January 2nd rapidly approaches, I am writing to share with you the real stories and concerns of my constituents who will be affected by these cuts if they are allowed to go into effect. On behalf of the people I serve I urge you to act to bring bipartisan legislation to the floor of the House and Senate that will strengthen our economy and relieve the uncertainty felt by my constituents and by Americans everywhere.

Sequestration also has the potential to cut \$492 billion from the base defense budget across all programs and activities. My district is home to two military installations, many defense contractors, service members and civilian personnel that are vital to our national security and our local economy. For example, Raytheon Missile Systems, Southern Arizona's largest private employer with about 10,500 workers has been heavily impacted by the uncertainty created by the fiscal cliff. In anticipation of the budget cuts they have been forced to slow the pace of hiring and delay major programs and contracts. These are real jobs that our community cannot afford to lose.

Under the Budget Control Act, a wide range of domestic programs that are critical to the health and safety of Southern Arizonans are due to be indiscriminately cut by 8 percent. For the Pima Council on Aging (PCOA), the largest provider of senior services in my district, these cuts will

devastate those programs that seniors depend on most. PCOA estimates that as a result, home-delivered meals may be reduced by as much as 40 percent and many seniors will lose access to home and community based care services that help them live independently. As the need and demand for services grows, we must protect these programs.

The University of Arizona in Tucson, a leader in public research, could lose up to \$25 million a year in their annual research budgets under sequestration. These cuts not only threaten the promise of scientific discoveries and new cures and treatment for diseases, they will be felt across student bodies as many universities will be forced to increase tuition and fees to absorb the costs in these already difficult economic times.

These are just a few of the many examples of how sequestration would hurt Southern Arizona and communities like ours across the country. I have enclosed over 100 additional stories from my constituents who have too much to lose if these cuts are allowed to take effect and who call on us to work together to find a solution.

We cannot push these decisions off to next year. We must act now to give each of these families, seniors, and businesses the certainty that they deserve.

Sincerely,



Ron Barber
Member of Congress