

Text of Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Greeting July 28, 2011

“The Budget Control Act of 2011”

Hello. This is your Congressman, Michael Burgess.

This week the debt ceiling has been at the forefront of all of the issues facing America. Just last week, the House of Representatives voted on the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act. That legislation was aimed to accomplish three goals. First, to cut spending by \$111 billion dollars. Secondly, to cap federal spending at the 2012 level for the next ten years. And finally, to allow the current debt ceiling to be raised only after Congress approves a Balanced Budget Amendment. I supported Cut, Cap, and Balance, and I believed it was our best option in moving America forward, and putting us back on a path of fiscal solvency and financial prosperity. Unfortunately, the Senate blocked this legislation.

This week, Speaker Boehner proposed a new agreement that would cut the 2012 fiscal year deficit by \$22 billion and \$915 billion over the next decade. Speaker Boehner’s plan does not include significant cuts in defense – this is not the same case with the plans laid out by the Democrats. I felt and I continue to feel have continued to feel that ensuring that our men and women in uniform receive the resources and funding they need is always one of our first considerations. America must guarantee that our national security is not at stake and not in play in the middle of Washington politics. In addition, this plan will not raise taxes. Families across this nation are cutting their spending at home, and we do not need to put an additional burden upon them.

Speaker Boehner’s plan is called the Budget Control Act of 2011. While I do not believe it is ideal, it is the best plan right now. It will cut spending and will not put our country in a position of further financial destruction. If we look at where we were one year ago when negotiating for cuts, House Republicans have made great progress in seeking cut after cut. This Congress, House Republicans have cut \$575 billion in mandatory spending.

The Budget Control Act of 2011 will have spending cuts of \$915 billion, larger than the allowed increase in the debt limit. This means that America will avoid a financial meltdown. This discussion is not over and we will be able to find additional savings before the end of the year. But you know, with a Democrat in the White House and a Democrat-controlled Senate, House Republicans will never be able to achieve the ideal goal of more significant restraint. We recognize this and are committed to working to save as much as we possibly can and at every opportunity where those savings can be achieved.

Over the past few weeks, I've heard from so many of you and I appreciate you contacting me and sharing your opinion about what you believe is best for America. Through calling, writing, tweeting, posting on Facebook, and participating in a tele-town hall earlier this week, I've heard your message loud and clear: Do not let our country head towards further fiscal disaster. While none of us want to raise the debt limit since it signals that America has spent beyond our means, what I've heard from you in these past few weeks is that you are ready to move on and address America's other needs. In addition, many of you voiced your opinion of making more cuts, and I will continue to ensure we save as much as possible and at every juncture possible.

I would never vote in favor of legislation that I believed would hurt our nation. I said earlier in this address, it is not the ideal plan, but it is the only serious plan that addresses the country's debt crisis – and I support it.

For information on this issue and other legislative issues before Congress please visit my website at burgess.house.gov. Thank you for taking the time to listen. Thank you for taking the time to contact me this week. God bless you and your family, and God bless Texas!