July 12, 2011

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Members of the United States Congress
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. President and Members of Congress,

We believe it is vitally important for the US government to make good on its financial obligations and to put its fiscal house in order. With our nation on a sound fiscal footing, we are confident that America's businesses and entrepreneurs will foster generations of high value, well paying jobs and contribute to a prosperous future. To this end, we believe now is the time for our political leaders to act.

First, it is critical that the US government not default in any way on its fiscal obligations. A great nation - like a great company - has to be relied upon to pay its debts when they become due. This is a Main Street not Wall Street issue. Treasury securities influence the cost of financing not just for companies but more importantly for mortgages, auto loans, credit cards and student debt. A default would risk both disarray in those markets and a host of unintended consequences. The debt ceiling trigger does offer a needed catalyst for serious negotiations on budget discipline but avoiding even a technical default is essential. This is a risk our country must not take.

Second, our political leaders must agree to a plan to substantially reduce our long-term budget deficits with a goal of at least stabilizing our nation's debt as a percentage of GDP - which will entail difficult choices. The resulting plan must be long-term, predictable and binding. As businesses make plans to invest and hire, we need confidence that, in the absence of a crisis, our government will not reverse course and return to large deficit spending.

Now is the time for our political leaders to put aside partisan differences and act in the nation's best interests. We believe that our nation's economic future is reliant upon their actions and urge them to reach an agreement. It is time to pull together rather than pull apart.

Yours sincerely,

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Southern Champion Tray LP

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CEO & President
Southland Tube, Inc.

Mike Walters
Executive Director
Southwestern Illinois Employers Association

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Chairman
Spencer Stuart

Lynne Carr
General Manager
Spring Manufacturers Institute

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Spuncast, Inc.

Robert Reynolds
COO and Co CEO
Standard-Knapp Inc.

John Lundgren
President and Chief Executive Officer
Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.

Bradley Lawton
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Star Cutter Company

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State Farm Insurance Companies

Fred Mutzek
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STC Industries

Thomas Danjczek
President
Steel Manufacturers Association

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Stellar Industries, Inc.

John Corey
CEO
Stoneridge Inc.

Charles Little, Jr., SPHR
President & CEO
Strategic HR Partners, LLC

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STUDIOS Architecture

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TechAmerica

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TechNet

Al Lubrano
President
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President and Chief Executive Officer
Tenet Healthcare Corporation

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Chairman & CEO
Tenneco Inc.

Jack Burchfield
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Ten-Tec, Inc.

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Chairman, President & CEO
Texas Instruments

Arthur Poland
Vice President
Thermal Industries

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President & Chief Executive Officer
Thermo Fisher Scientific, Inc.

Sterling Martin III
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Thomson Lamination Company, Inc.

Thomas Glocer
Chief Executive Officer
Thomson Reuters

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