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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

December 17, 2009

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The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi: *Nancy*

The House of Representatives has the opportunity to begin the New Year by following the lead of the Senate and many business owners by approving an important example of self discipline and self sacrifice for American workers and families. We can do this if you will schedule a suspension vote on the first day of the second session of the 111th Congress on S. 620, a bill to stop the automatic congressional pay raise procedure. The Senate approved S. 620 by unanimous consent on March 17, 2009. I am a co-sponsor of the identical companion bill in the House, H.R.1597.

It is clear that the American people do not think that Members of Congress deserve an increase in pay. Having a vote to join the Senate in denying ourselves an automatic pay raise on the first day of the second session of the 111th Congress would send a positive signal that we empathize with our constituents who are struggling to overcome historic economic distress and have returned ready to work in the best interests of the American people.

I am sure that you have talked as I have with employers who are reducing or even foregoing their salaries in order to pay their loyal and highly valued employees. I am sure you have talked with more than one person who is unemployed or underemployed. Congress approving S. 620 would send a clear message that we in Congress are in touch with the needs of the American people.

We are divided in so many debates. House approval of S. 620 offers an opportunity for us to unite and take a simple step to show that we understand the gravity of this economic crisis.

Sincerely,

Roscoe G. Bartlett

cc: Majority Leader Steny Hoyer
Chairman Robert A. Brady, Committee on House Administration
Ranking Member Dan Lungren, Committee on House Administration

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