



December 13, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Office of the Speaker  
H-232, US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Democratic Leader  
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg  
Washington, DC 20510

722 12<sup>th</sup> Street N.W.

Fourth Floor

Washington, D.C.

20005

T:(202)785-0266

F:(202)785-0261

[www.atr.org](http://www.atr.org)

Dear Speaker Pelosi, dear Leader Reid:

**In light of your promises regarding transparency and accountability as it relates to the legislative process, we write to urge you to refrain from scheduling a vote on the defense appropriations bill package, which is set to contain a multitude of unrelated provisions, until after the final version of the package has been made available to taxpayer scrutiny for a substantial period of time - ideally more than five days, but no less than 72 hours.**

As this defense bill is the proverbial “last train leaving the station” it is set to be larded up with a multitude of provisions the majority wants to quickly pass before year’s end. As negotiators have worked through the weekend, the entirety of Congress and the American people have yet to learn the details of this package which no doubt will be extremely costly, and is expected to contain several other problematic provisions taxpayers have a right to scrutinize.

Taxpayers, who are already forced to bear the cost of a massive government spending burden, deserve to be able to scrutinize the full extent of the final package, especially if it does more than allocate defense appropriations.

If the Leadership of this Congress were truly committed to the principles of transparency and accountability, there would be no arbitrary decisions as to which bills would be subjected to a waiting period coupled with an online posting requirement and which ones would not. Certainly a package of this magnitude which stands to affect all taxpayers should not be rushed.

Regardless of whether parts of this package were previously available online or have even passed in a chamber – the package in its entirety has not yet been available for public scrutiny. **Consequently, we urge you to allow taxpayers an opportunity to review this package for an appropriate period of time, but for at least 72 hours before a scheduled vote.**

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist  
President  
Americans for Tax Reform

Sandra Fabry  
Executive Director  
Center for Fiscal Accountability