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United States Senate

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

August 15, 2011

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

When Congress left for August recess, it left unfinished business. Credit rating agencies warned that \$4 trillion in deficit reduction was needed in order for the United States to keep its AAA rating. The deal that was struck to raise the debt ceiling only cut half that amount, and sent the message that Washington is content with business as usual; solving our fiscal problems can be pushed off for yet another day. In the days since that deal was struck, America has experienced a first-ever downgrade of its credit rating, and the continued uncertainty coming from Washington is causing tremendous volatility in the stock market and continued hesitation among job creators.

When asked this week if, in light of recent economic events, Congress should reconvene and focus on finding the solution our economy so desperately needs, you stated that the last thing America needs is Congress spending more time arguing in Washington, D.C. That we should spend August at home listening to our constituents vent their frustrations.

As I travelled across Kansas this week and completed my 87th town hall meeting this year, I heard from hard-working folks concerned about making ends meet during this down economy. They expect their elected leaders to take responsibility and deliver results, and are deeply disappointed with the ineffectual leadership coming out of Washington.

Most importantly, Kansans want to know why Congress is working at home right now and not on Capitol Hill coming up with responsible solutions. They are absolutely right; we need to spend this time doing what we were elected to do. I am prepared to return to Washington today if you are prepared to work with Congressional leaders on a commonsense plan to grow the American economy and put Americans back to work.

America needs an economic plan that creates an environment where businesses can grow and start hiring again. This means reining in burdensome government regulations; replacing our convoluted tax code with one that is fair, simple and certain; opening foreign markets for American manufactured goods and agricultural products; and developing a comprehensive energy policy. Ratifying the trade agreements with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea would be a step in the right direction. Lawmakers have already agreed that these plans to increase U.S.

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exports of manufactured goods would create jobs across all of America. Yet none of these things are getting done.

Kansans tell me that their expectations are simple: they want to put food on their family's table, save for their children's education, and prepare for their own retirement. They know that when our economy is strong, the federal government can pay down its debt, Americans can provide for their families, and we will all have the opportunity to see our children and grandchildren pursue the American dream. They expect more from their elected officials, so I urge you to call Congress back to Washington today.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jerry Moran". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jerry Moran

JM:ar