Dear Mr. President,

In our previous two communications in The Wall Street Journal, we called attention to the lurking threat our country faces from an exploding national debt fueled by runaway government spending. We urged you to lead a national campaign to restore fiscal soundness to our great country by waging a nonpartisan War on Waste.

From a recent U.S. Government Accountability Office report: “Since 2003…cumulative improper payment estimates have totaled about $1.4 trillion.” $1,400,000,000,000. Examples of improper payments are payments to doctors with suspended or revoked medical licenses or to people identified as deceased in federal death files.

A War on Waste is long overdue.

We respectfully recommend that you announce to the nation that you are beginning a four-step War on Waste, that stamping out profligate government spending is a top priority of your administration.

Step 1 – Start a Transparency Revolution
Publicize every White House expenditure. Direct every department and agency in your administration to follow suit. Classified expenditures would be excluded.

Transparency will be a culture-changing force. It will revolutionize government. It will influence how people vote. Knowing there is nowhere to hide will motivate politicians to earn votes with fiscal prudence rather than wasting taxpayer dollars by buying votes.

We are living in the Information Age and the Big Data world. There is no reason why every government expenditure should not be public, accessible to the voting public via cell phone, computer, and iPad.

Step 2 – Begin a War on Waste
Cut White House expenses 10%. Direct every government department and agency to cut expenses at least 5% (a realistic goal) and report the progress to you monthly.

This Transparency Revolution, this War on Waste are nonpartisan. It is not about cutting programs. It is about cutting government waste, fraud, duplication, and incompetence. How can removing waste—such as the $1.4 trillion in improper payments—do anything but increase the efficiency and effectiveness of every affected government program?

Step 3 – Mobilize Government Employees and Investigative Journalists
Our government employs many fine, dedicated public servants. They know where government waste is. So do investigative journalists. Reward those who expose waste with a percentage of the realized savings, a smaller percentage to their department head.

We recommend you hold an annual recognition dinner (maybe on the same night as the White House Correspondents’ Dinner) for those who reported the greatest amount of government waste. It is crucial to include dedicated public servants and investigative journalists in this important initiative.

Step 4 – Report the Progress to the Public
Personaly report to the public the progress or lack thereof at least quarterly for the remainder of your administration. Doing so is a clear and powerful statement that you personally and your administration are unequivocally focused on waging a war on the increasingly dangerous deficit spending crisis.

Congratulations, Mr. President. Under your administration, the economy is blooming. Unemployment is at 3.9%, near a 50-year low. For Black Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and those with only a high school diploma, it is at or near record lows. For women, unemployment is near a 66-year low. For youths, a 50-year low.

Wages are increasing. Regulations are far less counterproductive. Corporate tax rates are globally competitive. Domestic energy production is flourishing.

Unfortunately, the federal debt continues skyward. What would happen to our great country if the interest rate on government bonds exceeded 12% as in the early 1980s?

Mr. President, fiscal sanity is every bit as crucial to America’s survival as a strong defense. Only the President can begin a Transparency Revolution. Only the President can wage a War on Waste. Ronald Reagan once said, “If not us, who? If not now, when?”

The following page lists over 130 names of our country’s leaders who join us in urging you to make the Transparency Revolution, the War on Waste a primary and relentless initiative.

Respectfully,

Dr. Tom Coburn
Honorary Chairman

Thomas W. Smith
Chairman

Adam Andrzejewski
CEO & Founder

We welcome your support in our nonpartisan War on Waste. It’s Your Government. It’s Your Money.

For more information, please visit www.OpenTheBooks.com

We endorse the Transparency Revolution and the War on Waste.

DISCLAIMER: Affiliated organizations are for identification purposes only.

Additionally, more than 75 Americans have signed this petition by writing our petition at www.OpenTheBooks.com/petition.