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**RANDY HULTGREN***Proudly Representing the 14th District of Illinois*[Home](#)[About Randy](#)[Serving You](#)[News](#)[Our District](#)[Contact](#)

August 3, 2011

Dear Friend,

Since it was instituted in 1917, Congress has raised the debt ceiling – the limit up to which the federal government is permitted to borrow money – over seventy times without serious discussion or debate. This careless attitude fostered a climate of massive, mindless, spending that has contributed to the massive debt our country now faces and that I believe it is my responsibility to confront here in Washington.

As we approached the August 2 debt ceiling deadline, I heard from many of you who felt that the debt ceiling should only be raised in conjunction with serious reforms to the way Washington spends your tax dollars. A systemic fix was desperately needed, and I felt, as did many of you that increasing the debt ceiling should be tied to spending cuts, spending caps and a balanced budget amendment (BBA) to help get our country back on a sustainable fiscal path.

That systemic fix was introduced as H.R. 2560, the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act of 2011, and I happily supported it when it passed the House with bipartisan support on July 19. Unfortunately, the Senate voted to “table” – a polite way of saying reject – the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act, without immediately offering any plan of their own.

Between July 29 and August 1, the House passed two versions of a similar bill, the Budget Control Act. I supported the first of these on July 29 because it contained the critical structural changes I had supported in the Cut, Cap, and Balance Act, specifically the requirement for Congress to send a balanced budget amendment to the states for approval prior to the President requesting a second increase in the debt ceiling.

However, I felt that the final version of the Budget Control Act, passed by the House on Monday and the Senate on Tuesday, did not hold to the values of Cut, Cap, and Balance. In contrast to the bill I supported on Friday, what passed the House on Monday over my opposition was stripped of the strong BBA I believe is necessary to get our fiscal house in order. As a result, disagreeing respectfully with my leadership, I voted against the Budget Control Act, although it passed the House by a vote of 269-161.

I'd like to thank the thousands of constituents who called, emailed and faxed my offices to have their opinions heard on this very important issue.

If you haven't already, be sure to like my [Facebook page](#), follow me on [Twitter](#), or check out my [YouTube page](#) to stay informed on everything I'm doing on your behalf in Washington and in Illinois.

As always, it is truly an honor to serve you in Washington. Please contact me at 630.232.7104 or 202.225.2976 if I can be of assistance, or if you'd like to share your thoughts on the issues before Congress.

In service,

Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress

News from Washington

Another pressing issue in Congress is the extension or reauthorization of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) programs. Dueling reauthorization bills passed the House and the Senate months ago, and when an agreement could not be met, the House moved to pass the 21st extension of the FAA programs more than two weeks ago.

However, in an effort to protect exorbitant federal subsidies of more than \$1,000 per ticket at three airports, including Ely,

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Nevada, where each ticket is underwritten \$3,720 by the federal government, Majority Leader Reid and the Senate Democrats failed to approve the House extension prior to leaving town for the August recess. The result of this inaction is 4,000 FAA employees will be furloughed and thousands of airport construction workers across the country won't be able to work.

It's disappointing to me that the Senate Democrats would chose political pork over American workers.

Randy In The News

[The Morning After: Randy Hultgren Discusses His 'No' Vote on Debt Ceiling](#)

[Hultgren Statement On Opposition To Budget Control Act](#)

[Illinois lawmakers split on debt ceiling vote](#)

[Randy Hultgren: On the default deadlocked Congress](#)

[Ill. Republican Representatives Differ on Debt Ceiling Bill](#)

[Hultgren Discusses Debt Ceiling Deal On WROK](#)

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