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JUDICIARY-DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**CO-CHAIR—CONGRESSIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS**

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 10, 2006

The Honorable Henry Paulson
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20220-0001

Dear Secretary Paulson:

Congratulations on your appointment as Secretary of the Treasury. I am writing to share with you information about legislation I recently introduced to address the looming financial crisis facing the nation with the retirement of the baby boomers - H.R. 5552, the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act.

The retirement of the first boomers is only a few short years away and will usher in an unsustainable increase in entitlement and other federal program spending. Under the bill, everything, is on the table and Congress would be required to vote up or down.

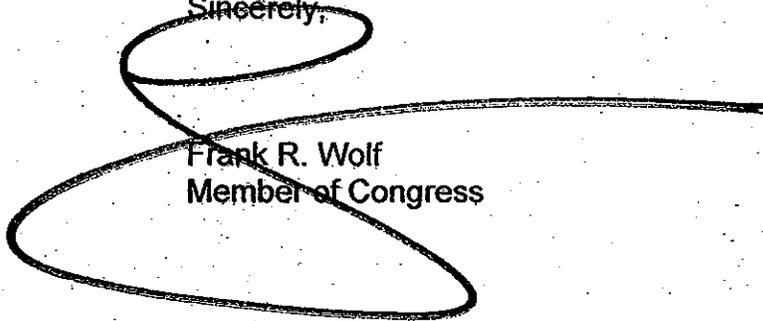
I have heard criticism that such weighty decisions on the nation's financial future are the responsibility of Congress, not a commission. Unfortunately, Congress today is polarized and paralyzed. To solve this critical problem, I believe a bipartisan commission of men and women more committed to their country than their party and working in a truly bipartisan fashion is the only way to find common ground.

I have been pleased by the response this proposal has received from people on both sides of the aisle. Enclosed are several letters of support for the idea from the Concord Coalition, the Urban Institute, and Jim Jones, former chairman of the House Budget Committee.

The longer we wait to deal with this problem, the tougher the medicine will be to swallow.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,


Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:cs
enclosures

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10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



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**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

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www.house.gov/wolf

August 1, 2006

The Honorable Henry Paulson
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20220-0001

Dear Secretary Paulson:

I saw your remarks about the U.S. needing to face the long-term problems confronting Social Security and Medicare and want to share information about legislation I recently introduced in the House of Representatives aimed at addressing the looming financial crisis facing the nation. I have spoken to Josh Bolten and Rob Portman about this idea and believe that with the support this proposal is receiving, there is a real opportunity before us.

The bill would establish a national bipartisan commission that will put everything – entitlement spending as well as all other federal programs and our nation's tax policies – on the table and require Congress to vote up or down on its recommendations in their entirety, similar to the process set in 1988 to close military bases. Mandating congressional action on the panel's recommendations is what differentiates this commission from previous ones.

I already have heard criticism that such weighty decisions on the nation's financial future are the responsibility of Congress. In a different era – free of the preoccupation with "red" and "blue" ideology – I want to believe Congress could act. But in today's politically charged atmosphere that permeates life in Washington, partisan divisions cut deep. A commission made up of men and women more committed to their country than their party and working in a truly bipartisan fashion is the only way to find common ground on this critically important issue.

The American people deserve an honest assessment about the federal government's checkbook – a discussion driven not by politics, but by statesmanship. The commission will be required to hold a series of town hall meetings across the country to hear from the American people. I believe most Americans would welcome this conversation, considering we all want what is best for our children and grandchildren.

I have been pleased by the support I have received from people across the political spectrum. Enclosed you will find a summary of the bill (H.R. 5552), the statement I made when it was introduced, a letter of support from the Concord Coalition, a recent analysis by the Heritage Foundation and letters of support from former Members of Congress and Congressional Budget Office directors.

The longer we wait to deal with this problem, the tougher the medicine will be to swallow. Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:cs

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

July 12, 2007

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The Honorable Henry Paulson
Secretary, Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20220-0001

Dear Secretary Paulson:

As you know, Senator Voinovich and I reintroduced the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act in January. I wanted to follow up with you and share the enclosed letter I wrote to the president asking that the administration embrace this idea.

I think about our children and grandchildren and it is disheartening that critical issues are falling by the wayside because Congress today is so polarized. I believe that a bipartisan commission operating outside the halls of Congress that would mandate action is the answer to getting our fiscal house in order and diverting financial crisis in this country.

The SAFE Commission bill has 32 cosponsors to date. I am committed to continue working with my colleagues to enact this legislation on a matter of such critical importance to our nation's future.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

*I appreciate
your service*

FRW:jp
enclosure

*I AM SORRY THAT YOU HAVE
FAILED TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE.
I BELIEVE YOU WILL REGRET YOUR
LACK OF ACTION WHEN YOU LEAVE
WASHINGTON. BEST WISHES -*

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

August 3, 2007

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The Honorable Henry Paulson
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington DC 20220-0001

Dear Secretary Paulson:

I read your recent comments about reaching the statutory debt limit as early as October. I have always voted for the limit increase but am seriously considering voting against it this year because of the lack of leadership by the administration in taking steps to change the country's current financial path. I truly believe that this administration has the ability to change our course.

I am not writing to you today as a Republican or a Democrat, but as a father and grandfather. Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle understand the enormity of this issue and the impact that will be felt for generations to come. It's disheartening that the partisan political divide in Congress is so consuming that issues with such high stakes continue to languish.

That's why I have introduced the Securing America's Future Economy (SAFE) Commission Act, which would establish a bipartisan commission and put everything—entitlement, tax policy, and other federal spending—on the table for review.

This administration can offer hope and start to remedy our fiscal prognosis, brightening the horizon for our children and their children. It is critical that they have all the opportunities the Greatest Generation made possible for you and me. Our grandchildren should set ambitious goals, and believe that hard work will be met by opportunity.

We have a moral obligation to address the long-term fiscal challenges ahead.

I know you are a good person and wants what is best for America. With your leadership and vision, progress can be made.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:jp

BEST WISHES

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
October 22, 2007

The Honorable Henry Paulson
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20220-0001

Dear Secretary Paulson:

Just wanted to update you on the SAFE Commission legislation since I reintroduced the bill with Jim Cooper three weeks ago.

The measure has gained bipartisan support with over 40 cosponsors -- split evenly between Democrats and Republicans from members of the Republican Study Committee to three of the four Blue Dog Coalition co-chairs. I believe that support for this measure will continue to grow.

You may have read that the first baby boomer signed up for promised Social Security benefits last week. Our nation's "long term" deficit problem has arrived.

We should be concerned that last Monday the U.S. dollar hit an all-time low in the wake of a major housing recession and enormous trade deficits. We should care that the value of the dollar has been dropping against the Canadian dollar, the euro and the Japanese yen.

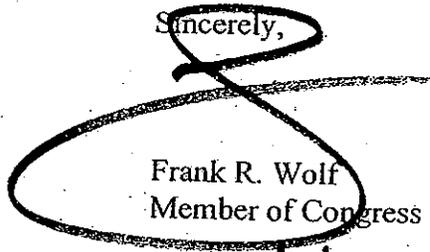
What will it take for us to address these issues?

The SAFE Commission fits into what this administration claims to stand for and will ensure sound financial footing for generations to come. I have enclosed information on the bill since its reintroduction including a list of current cosponsors.

Please give serious consideration to the SAFE Commission Act.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,


Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:jp
enclosures

I read the bill for help save the country

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



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CO-CHAIR—CONGRESSIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 25, 2007

The Honorable Henry Paulson
Secretary, Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20220-0001

Dear Secretary *H* Paulson:

As meritorious as the Administration's argument is with regard to the \$21 billion in discretionary spending it is relatively insignificant compared to the massive entitlement spending problem. It is like comparing a mouse to an elephant.

Our SAFE Commission bill represents all that the Administration says it cares about, including more than 50 bipartisan cosponsors (see list).

Failing to address this issue is like driving a car toward the edge of a cliff with no brake pedal.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:jp
enclosure

*This would bring about
a Renaissance in America.*

Frank R. Wolf

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10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

November 1, 2007

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The Honorable Henry Paulson
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20220-0001

Dear Secretary Paulson:

I am deeply troubled that this Administration is missing an opportunity to do something so powerful for our children and grandchildren.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:jp
enclosure

Peace see the enclosed
David Bruber article. It
would be terrible to miss
the opportunity to address
this issue. Dave

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
November 14, 2007

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The Honorable Henry Paulson
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20220-0001

Dear Secretary Paulson:

As a follow up to our conversation last week about the SAFE Commission, I want you to know that Roy Bunt has also signed onto the bill.

The Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission has over 50 bipartisan cosponsors including Republican leadership in the House (see enclosed).

We are waiting for the Administration to support this effort to rein in entitlement spending.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:jp

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10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

November 16, 2007

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The Honorable Henry Paulson
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20220-0001

Dear Secretary Paulson:

Support for the bipartisan Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission continues to grow. Enclosed please find a letter of endorsement from John Castellani at the Business Roundtable.

Republican leadership in the House supports this bill. John Boehner and Roy Blunt have both cosponsored.

Growing entitlement spending will not fix itself. We need the Administration to get behind this effort.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:jp
enclosure

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

November 26, 2007

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The Honorable Henry Paulson
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20220-0001

Dear Secretary Paulson:

Enclosed please find the Sunday editorial – "The 110th's Budget Challenge" – from *The Washington Times*.

I understand that the administration has a lot on its plate – fighting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and working to bring peace to the Middle East.

I also understand that this administration has worked in the past to address the entitlement reform issue. Timing is everything and I truly believe we can pass the SAFE Commission legislation in the House, and similar legislation in the Senate.

The SAFE Commission has over 60 bipartisan cosponsors and I'm asking that you support the bill.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:jp
enclosure

Best Wishes

FRANK R. WOLF

10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

December 5, 2007

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The Honorable Henry Paulson
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20220-0001

Dear Secretary Paulson:

Enclosed is a letter I recently received from Ben Bernanke about our nation's fiscal imbalance, reiterating, "...if early and meaningful action is not taken, the U.S. economy could be seriously weakened, with future generations bearing much of the cost."

Your administration deserves credit for its work in the past to address the entitlement reform issue. Our parents told us that if at first you don't succeed, try, try again. I am asking that the SAFE Commission be that second try.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:jp
enclosure

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
December 10, 2007

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The Honorable Henry Paulson
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20220-0001

Dear Secretary Paulson:

Support for the bipartisan Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission continues to grow. Enclosed please find a letter of endorsement from the National Federation of Independent Business. As you know, the Business Roundtable has also endorsed the bill.

The business community is clearly concerned about our fiscal outlook.

We need the Administration to get behind this effort.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

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FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
January 17, 2008

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wolf.house.gov

The Honorable Henry Paulson
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20220-0001

Dear Secretary Paulson:

Between July 19 and December 10, 2007, I wrote to you ~~one~~ ^{many different} times about the unsustainable financial path our country is on, and the bipartisan SAFE Commission as a potential way forward to rein in entitlement spending. I have respectfully asked for the administration's support because of the critical importance of taking action now.

I am disappointed that the administration is missing this opportunity to bring about a renaissance in America, giving hope to future generations and ensuring that our children and grandchildren can live in a world where hard work will be met by opportunity.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:jp
enclosures

I AM VERY DISAPPOINTED,
YOU COULD HAVE DONE SO
MUCH TO HELP OUR CHILDREN
AND GRANDCHILDREN.

FRANK R. WOLF

10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

January 23, 2008

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wolf.house.gov

The Honorable Henry Paulson
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20220-0001

Dear Secretary Paulson:

I write again on the critical matter of the nation's long-term financial outlook to share with you the letter I received yesterday from U.S. Comptroller General David Walker. Certainly we should be concerned about the current economy, but Mr. Walker is adamant that we must address the growing debt, pointing to Moody's Investors Service recently released annual report which concluded that the United States triple-A bond rating is at risk.

The comptroller general believes that our current path will "result in a tsunami of spending and debt levels that could swamp our ship of state." If our children and grandchildren were on the beach with an actual tsunami off the coast we would do everything we could to help them. We must act now before it's too late.

The SAFE Commission is the way forward, and the administration should support this bill.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:jp
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FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA



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HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
April 3, 2008

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The Honorable Henry Paulson
Secretary of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20220-0001

Dear Secretary Paulson:

As a courtesy I wanted to share with you the speech I gave on the House floor today with respect to entitlement reform and the Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission legislation.

Your administration deserves credit for its past work to address entitlement spending, but we must try again. I saw an AP news report that you have complained that you are tired of playing "solitaire" on the issue. I must take issue with your characterization given the wide bipartisan support for the SAFE Commission in Congress. We have over 75 cosponsors in the House including the Republican leadership and every one of the Blue Dog Coalition co-chairs.

The opportunity is available to work together. Our children and grandchildren are counting on us.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:jp
enclosure

76 MEMBERS OF
CONGRESS IS NOT SOLITAIRE

FRANK R. WOLF
10TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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CO-CHAIR—CONGRESSIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS CAUCUS



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

April 10, 2008

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The Honorable Henry Paulson
Secretary of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC 20220-0001

Dear Secretary Paulson:

In his first speech in the British Parliament in 1789 describing the slave trade, William Wilberforce concluded by telling his colleagues, "Having heard all this you may choose to look the other way, but you can never again say that you did not know."

Not one member of this administration, and not one member of the 110th Congress can say they do not know about the nation's long-term financial outlook, which former comptroller general David Walker says will "result in a tsunami of spending and debt levels that could swamp our ship of state."

According to the Government Accountability Office we are \$5.3 trillion deep in publicly held debt, and an estimated \$54.3 trillion in unfunded promised benefits if we don't change our current course. The Social Security and Medicare Trustees reports recently issued only reinforce the dire condition of our fiscal health. Meanwhile the value of the dollar is falling through the floor. What more evidence does this administration need to realize our children and grandchildren cannot afford to have their leaders choose to look the other way?

It will take leadership on a Wilberforce level from both sides of the aisle to address entitlement spending. We know what is happening, and for the sake of our children and grandchildren, we must act.

The Cooper-Wolf SAFE Commission Act is on the table for discussion. If you have another plan, we are willing to put that on the table, too. The bottom line is that we need to start the discussion with the administration as an active player.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf
Member of Congress

FRW:jp
enclosure