

Joe Manchin III
WEST VIRGINIA



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC

August 2nd, 2011

Senator Harry Reid
U.S. Senate Majority Leader
U.S. Capitol S-221

Dear Leader Reid,

I respectfully request the opportunity to serve as a member of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction created by the Budget Control Act of 2011. If selected, I will commit to working across party lines to achieve commonsense solutions, and I believe that my record demonstrates a strong capacity to accomplish these goals.

As Governor of West Virginia, I was responsible for formulating and presenting a balanced budget to the Legislature every year. I worked with members of both parties to pass six state budgets. Not only was each budget balanced, but each year our state enjoyed a budget surplus – and those surpluses grew even as our nation was entering a financial crisis. During my tenure, we increased our state's rainy day fund by more than half a billion dollars, while also cutting waste, fraud and abuse. Because of the sound fiscal decisions we made, our state's credit rating has improved three times in the last three years, and West Virginia is one of only a handful of states to have its credit rating upgraded during these tough fiscal times.

As you know, this committee will succeed only if its members have a proven ability to work well across the aisle. In that regard, I would bring years of experience working in a bipartisan fashion while also fighting to defend the values and priorities that matter to me as a Democrat. As Governor, even when we made tough choices to ensure a brighter future for our state, I fought to defend the programs critical to our families, seniors, veterans and children. Through smart budgeting, I responsibly cut spending and at the same time, we expanded critical programs and services that mattered to the middle class and the working poor.

I believe that my experience in working across the aisle with Republicans, my commonsense approach to budgeting, my commitment to our values and priorities, and my strong belief in fiscal responsibility, responsible spending cuts, and tax fairness would make me a prudent choice for the Committee.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joe Manchin III".

Joe Manchin III
U.S. Senator