

# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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JAMES P. HOFFA  
General President

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C. THOMAS KEEGEL  
General Secretary-Treasurer

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[www.teamster.org](http://www.teamster.org)

July 22, 2011

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 1.4 million men and women of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, I am urging you to oppose any agreement to raise the debt ceiling that would come on the backs of the middle-class, seniors, children, and people with disabilities.

With unemployment at a record all time high, the social safety net is more important than ever. Programs like Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare must be protected. Further cuts to these vital services would cause more of the nation's vulnerable to end up in poverty. This is not the society we should envision for our country.

Nearly 160 million working Americans have access to health care through employment-based insurance. We fought hard to minimize the impact of an excise tax on working Americans; any additional taxes to employee health benefits must be rejected. Proposals to tax health plans are tantamount to a tax hike on middle-class Americans, who can least afford it.

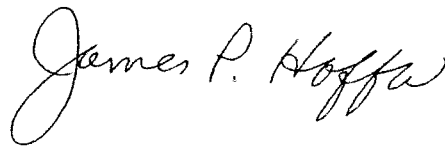
In order to balance the budget and seriously address the deficit without undermining the nation's social fabric, taxes must be raised on the nation's wealthy. The tax cuts under the Bush Administration must not be extended. Those cuts have contributed immensely to the nation's current financial woes, along with the recklessness of Wall Street.

Corporate tax loopholes must be closed. Many of the nation's largest corporations pay little or no taxes at all. Tax reform must discourage corporations from offshoring jobs overseas.

United States Senate  
July 22, 2011  
Page 2

The most obvious solution to solving the budget crisis is to put Americans back to work. I urge Congress and the White House to focus on job creation and to reject proposals that would further erode the middle-class.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James P. Hoffa". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

James P. Hoffa  
General President