

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 10, 1982

Dear Bob:

The Senate has taken a significant and historic step toward restoring fiscal integrity to our Federal budget process by passing S.J. Res. 58, a constitutional amendment to require a balanced budget. I commend you for your support of this important legislation.

Clearly, the legacy of 21 unbalanced budgets in the past 22 years has placed in jeopardy our economic well-being. S.J. Res. 58 provides a constitutional procedure which establishes as the norm the premise that spending should not exceed revenues. This premise is one which all Americans understand, and one that represents sound fiscal policy for individuals as well as the government. At the same time, the amendment provides the necessary flexibility for Congress to exercise its power to spend, to tax and to set deficits.

I recognize any effort to change the basic charter of our government as a serious undertaking. In the case of S.J. Res. 58, I am convinced that the results of this action will be beneficial for the American people as individuals and for America as a nation.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

The Honorable Robert Dole
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510