

The Honorable Matthew Rosendale

Budget Committee Member Day hearing

Thank you, Chairman Arrington, for giving me this opportunity to testify. I am here today not to talk about a new legislative proposal or a new scheme to fix our broken budget process. Instead, I am proposing that Congress simply follows that law that it passed for itself 50 years ago.

- After decades of recklessness shown by Congress, America now finds itself over 33 trillion dollars in debt. Our government's fiscal irresponsibility is the single biggest threat to America.
 - As Congress continues to ignore this threat, the situation only worsens.
 - Earlier this year, the U.S. Debt credit rating was downgraded for the second time in our nation's History.
 - If we continue this trajectory, the U.S. will have to spend 50% of revenue to pay the interest on debt.
 - Continuing down this path for any longer is completely unsustainable and will cause never before seen financial hardship in the United States.
 - The American people deserve a responsible and transparent budget process with 12 individual appropriations bills. Congress has a statutory obligation from the Budget Act of 1974 to pass 12 individual appropriations bills.

- Since 1974, Congress has only passed the appropriations bills on time four times. Congress has not passed the twelve appropriations bills by the required deadline at all in the last 26 years.
- Although the Republican majority in the House took much-needed steps to reduce wasteful spending this year, 86% of proposed spending reductions were prevented on the House floor not by Democrats but by Republicans
- This unprecedented debt crisis means that going forward Congress will have to take tough votes to lower our debt and restore our country's financial independence.
- The apparent unwillingness from some in the Republican Party to act in the interest of the American people and pass 12 appropriations bills that spend within our means will only prolong and worsen the struggles the American people are facing every day.
- Americans across this country balance their budgets and ensure their spending is within their means, and it is past time the Federal government does the same.
- Thank you, Chairman Arrington; I look forward to any questions the Committee may have.