

Given your interest in government reform, I want to share a recently [released report](#) from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) indicating that the federal government is wasting *tens of billions*

of taxpayer dollars each year on programs that duplicate each other. For example, the report found that that the Department of Transportation manages highways, rails, transit, and safety programs through five agencies and 100 different programs, a duplication that costs taxpayers an estimated \$58 billion annually. Another prime example of costly duplication cited by GAO is that 15 different federal programs are devoted to our nation's food safety system. During these difficult economic times, I believe it is especially important that we examine how federal agencies are using taxpayer dollars and eliminate the practice of multiple agencies handling the same project or having duplicative objectives.

The American people have every right to be outraged with the waste and inefficient use of their hard-earned tax dollars that the GAO report has exposed. I believe Washington must be held accountable and am pleased that Congress has mandated that the report be issued annually. Along with supporting legislation that would [save \\$100 billion](#) this year alone, I believe Congress should closely examine the GAO report to find ways to further cut waste and duplication out of the federal government. However, while eliminating waste, fraud and duplicative spending in federal programs is necessary and critically important, we cannot fix our long-term debt issues through those efforts alone. I remain committed to reducing discretionary spending in addition to finding a solution that will reform our entitlements for the next generation of Americans and put our nation on a fiscally sustainable path.