

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 31, 2012

Frank J. Farenkopf, Jr. and Michael D. McCurry
Co-Chairmen
Commission on Presidential Debates
1200 New Hampshire Avenue NW
Suite 445
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Farenkopf and Mr. McCurry:

We write as Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, who all agree on one thing: the nearly \$16 trillion national debt, which is growing by almost \$2 trillion per year, is one of the great moral issues and threats facing our nation.

In light of the gravity of this issue, we believe that the Debate Commission should ask each presidential candidate to devote specific and extensive attention to the question of how the candidates would get our nation's fiscal house back in order during the first debate dedicated to domestic policy.

Specifically, we request that you ask the presidential candidates which of the recommendations of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform they would adopt as part of their plan to reduce the deficit. As part of this discussion, we believe that it would be essential to engage the candidates in a detailed discussion of their priorities for tax and entitlement reform.

We hope that such a debate would begin a national discussion that results in a consensus that both of our major national parties can endorse to reduce the deficit and place our nation's economy on a path to future growth.

Sincerely,



Joseph I. Lieberman
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator



Saxby Chambliss
United States Senator



Mark Pryor
United States Senator