

State of Alaska
State of Arizona
State of Georgia
State of Mississippi
State of North Dakota

The Compact Commission
Compact for a Balanced Budget
c/o Compact for America Educational Foundation, Inc.
2323 Clear Lake City Boulevard, Suite 189-190
Houston, Texas 77062



April 27, 2017

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor's Office
PO Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

RE: Compact for a Balanced Budget

Dear Governor Abbott:

During the last three years, our five states have come together to create the Compact for a Balanced Budget, designed to amend the U.S. Constitution with a powerful, yet plausible, balanced budget and debt limit amendment. This is one of several efforts to force the federal government to rein in its spending. We write to you officially today to ask you to invite your state, through your action and that of your state legislature, to join this Compact.

Last week, the federal debt climbed to over \$19.9 trillion, which is the new debt limit as of March 15, 2017. Now that the new debt limit has been reached, the Treasury is undertaking extraordinary measures to prevent default. In response, Congress may suspend the debt ceiling again this year, or increase it. It may pass a reduced budget, or not one at all. It may reform its budget accounting procedures, or not. In the meantime, interest rates may climb further, and the amount of cash available to meet other obligations and the needs of the federal government will be further constrained.

Majorities in both houses of Congress have sponsored balanced budget amendments, but it is unlikely the two-thirds vote required in each house will ever, soon, send a balanced budget amendment to states for ratification. The Compact we have formed streamlines the process under Article V of the Constitution to amend the constitution. It not only petitions the Congress for a convention to propose the state-of-the-art balanced budget and debt limit amendment, but it legally limits the delegates of joining member states from participating in a runaway convention. And we, as the state legislative leaders, will be those delegates. The proposed amendment, which is part of the Compact legislation, has been written and is ready for adoption by the 24-hour convention. When the convention passes that amendment, our states – and yours if you join – will have already ratified the measure through the terms of the Compact, and the job will be done.

Recently, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey signed legislation to have Arizona join the Compact. We invite you to join to send Washington a message – that dealing with this issue is of paramount concern. In your State of the State message this year, you called the growing federal deficit a “national emergency,” and are supporting various Article V legislative efforts in your state. Other states considering the measure this year include Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Missouri.

Letter to Texas Governor Greg Abbott

April 27, 2017

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As noted in your Texas example, several Article V measures are making their way through the states. We invite you to join this one without prejudice to any of the other efforts, including the Convention of the States Project (COSP) and the Balanced Budget Amendment Task Force (BBATF).

Former Alaska Lt. Governor Mead Treadwell now chairs our Compact Commission, which is vice-chaired by Georgia Representative Paulette Rakestraw and joined by Mississippi House Speaker Pro Tempore Greg Snowden. Each of these compact representatives are able to come to your state, bring constitutional and financial experts with them, and discuss this with you or your legislature. Whether you support our efforts, or are just keeping an open mind, I hope you will host a delegation from the Compact.

Chip DeMoss, the Compact Administrator, is who to contact to make this happen. If you can, please let him know who on your staff he can work with. He can be reached at (281) 235-8311.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

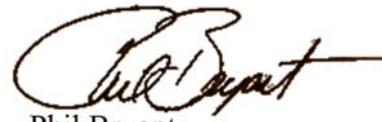
Regards,



David Ralston
Designated Georgia Delegate
Speaker of the House
In office since 2010
First state to join



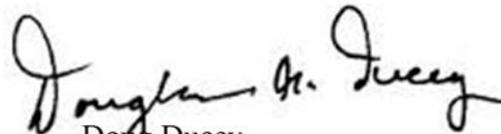
Sean Parnell
Designated Alaska Delegate
Signing Governor
In office 2009-2014
Second state to join



Phil Bryant
Designated Mississippi Delegate
Signing Governor
In office since 2012
Third state to join



Doug Burgum
North Dakota Governor
In office since 2016
Fourth state to join



Doug Ducey
Designated Arizona Delegate
Signing Governor
In office since 2015
Fifth state to join

The Compact Commissioners



Chair Mead Treadwell
Alaska



Vice Chair Paulette Rakestraw
Georgia



Commissioner Greg Snowden
Mississippi