

# Sample

(date)

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
United States Senate / House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

**RE: STRONG OPPOSITION TO A DISTRACTING, SO-CALLED “BALANCED BUDGET” AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION (H.J. RES. 1 / S. J. RES. 10)**

Dear Senator / Representative \_\_\_\_\_;

As your constituent, I am writing to express my strong opposition to a distracting Balanced Budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution (H. J. Res. 1 / S. J. Res. 10) and to urge you to oppose it and vote against it when it comes before you for consideration.

In light of our growing national deficit, it is clear that we as a Nation must reexamine every aspect of our federal budget. Hard choices must be made about spending, entitlements and taxes. Rather than focus on distracting gimmicks such as a so-called Balance Budget Amendment to the Constitution which could prove detrimental to our national economy and our Nation’s people, we should be seeking long-term common-sense solutions which will protect the most vulnerable among us.

In addition to being a distraction, a “Balanced budget” amendment to the Constitution would be dangerous to our national economy. By limiting the federal government’s ability to respond to economic turmoil, a constitutional amendment could weaken the economy by hastening or deepening recessions. This would be especially harmful to racial and ethnic minorities, since we are traditionally much more adversely affected by any economic transition or downturn. A balanced budget amendment to the Constitution would also limit or eliminate public investments with long-term payoffs. Furthermore, the Balanced Budget Amendments being currently considered by both the House and the Senate would require a two-thirds “super majority” in both the House and the Senate to raise revenue, thereby undermining the principle of majority rule and further eroding the government’s ability to respond to economic realities. Also, by making it harder to raise revenues — and even to close unproductive tax loopholes — than to cut programs, the amendment would tilt policy in favor of the wealthy and well-connected over the middle class and the poor.

Again, I urge you to reject the “balanced Budget Amendment” to the Constitution (H. J. Res. 1 / S. J. Res. 10) and instead focus on what needs to be done to get our fiscal house in order. I look forward to working with you over the next few years as difficult choices are debated and made. Please let me know if I can help you.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and  
remember to include your address)

***Remember to contact your  
Representative and BOTH  
your Senators.***