



October 20, 2025

Dear Members of the United States Senate,

We write to you as a coalition of state chambers of commerce to convey our strong and shared opposition to the federal government shutdown. Our businesses and communities depend on steady, predictable government operations, and past shutdowns have underscored how deeply disruptions can impact regional economies.

From the 2013 impasse over funding tied to the Affordable Care Act, to the 2019 standoff when federal resources were withheld without border wall approval, our chambers have consistently opposed shutdowns regardless of which party controls Congress or the White House. We have also opposed efforts by factions leveraging essential funding to force concessions on broader policy debates. That principle guides us today: avoiding a shutdown must remain a top priority.

While robust discussions over issues such as health care, national debt policy, and border security are a necessary part of governance, they must not come at the expense of halting funding for essential services. Using appropriations as leverage to collapse critical operations imposes real harm.

A prolonged shutdown threatens serious economic damage. The uncertainty it causes for employers, workers, and investors would ripple across industries, including federal contract delays, closures of national parks, government permitting and regulatory slowdowns, and more. We acknowledge that reaching agreement on major policy issues has become increasingly difficult in the current political climate. But the Senate has long served as a venue for compromise and collaboration—and it must do so again now.

Recently, a bipartisan effort in the Senate sought to pass a “clean” continuing resolution (CR) to prevent a shutdown. Unfortunately, the measure failed to receive the 60 votes needed for passage. Given your past support for keeping the government open and for using regular order to resolve policy disputes, we respectfully urge you to vote in favor of a clean CR or any alternative mechanism that ensures continuity of government operations.

Thank you for your leadership and service.

Sincerely,

Arizona Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Arizona Manufacturers Council
Association of Washington Business
Michigan Chamber of Commerce
Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce
Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association
Virginia Chamber of Commerce
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce