

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

March 2, 2021

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Baldwin and Johnson,

I am writing to urge you to oppose the so-called “American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.” This \$1.9 trillion legislation contains roughly \$1 trillion in spending not directly related to pandemic relief, including many special interest provisions and bailouts for big spending state and local governments. These bailouts will effectively be financed by taxpayers in fiscally responsible states such as Wisconsin.

In Wisconsin, the legislative fiscal bureau recently announced that the state will take in \$1.2 billion more in revenues over the next two years than originally projected. In fact, the state revenue department reported that Wisconsin’s December 2020 corporate tax collections were up nearly 40 percent year-on-year compared to December 2019<sup>1</sup> – this is due in no small part to the state supreme court striking down Governor Evers’ misguided “Stay at Home” order empowering Wisconsin’s workers and employers to outperform those of neighboring states who chose to strangle their own economies with heavy-handed lockdowns.

Approving trillions more in unsustainable government spending to bail out states that now find themselves in a deep fiscal hole and hemorrhaging residents thanks to decades of profligate spending, crushing taxes, and the imposition of stifling restrictions on business and investment makes no sense. Why should taxpayers in responsible states like ours be forced to bankroll the excesses in states like Illinois and New York – particularly when roughly \$1 trillion in previously approved federal assistance remains unspent?<sup>2</sup>

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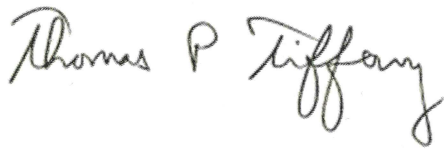
<sup>1</sup> Heather Gillers and Joe Barrett, “Wisconsin Expected a Bad Year for Tax Revenue. It Was Wrong,” The Wall Street Journal, Feb. 5, 2021

<sup>2</sup> Jordan Davidson, “\$1 trillion in Coronavirus ‘Stimulus’ is Sitting Around Unused,” The Federalist, Feb. 12, 2021

I am also concerned about the raft on non-COVID spending that was rolled into this mammoth legislation, as well as the inclusion of extraneous policy riders that are wholly unrelated to virus containment and eradication efforts. The effort to attach these items – which include a \$1.5 billion giveaway to Amtrak, a massive minimum wage hike that will hammer employers already struggling under the weight of government lockdowns, hundreds of millions of dollars for museums and taxpayer subsidized art, and even an earmark for a bridge in New York<sup>3</sup> – to an “emergency relief bill” is an example of the kind of political opportunism in Washington that so many Americans have rightfully come to resent.

I hope you will reject this cynical and reckless spending bill, and instead focus on a legislative approach that removes the open-ended lockdowns that continue to harm farmers, families, small businesses, and taxpayers. The best “stimulus” policymakers can provide is not another government check, it is to reverse arbitrary, job-killing, government-imposed closures and limits on business activity so that workers and entrepreneurs can get back to doing what they do best: Serving their customers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas P. Tiffany". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Tom Tiffany  
Member of Congress

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<sup>3</sup> Editorial, “The Non-Covid Spending Blowout,” The Wall Street Journal, Feb. 21, 2021