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July 9, 2012

Senator Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Bldg
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressional Leadership:

I write to strongly urge the House and Senate leadership to quickly schedule a vote to permanently extend the expiring middle-class tax cuts.

Throughout our nation's difficult economic recovery, we have engaged in a spirited debate on the merits of tax policy and the most appropriate approach to balancing the budget. Many, like myself, believe that we must ask the wealthiest Americans to pay their fair share. In 2013, more than three-quarters of the benefit of current tax cuts for upper-income taxpayers will benefit individuals earning $1 million or more. Those individuals will represent less than one-third of one percent of all taxpayers. As such, I have advocated for allowing the Bush-era tax cuts to expire for those with an earned income of $500,000 or more a year and to use the resulting revenue to pay down the deficit.

While we may disagree on this proposal, we can all agree that the permanent extension of the middle-class tax cuts would benefit millions of working families as well as the American economy. By putting more money in the pockets of American consumers, we create additional demand for our local businesses, and we afford American taxpayers the certainty to plan their budgets in order to meet their basic needs and achieve their goals and dreams.

Too often this Congress has delayed important economic decisions until the last minute, threatening not only our recovery, but also domestic and global confidence in the American economy. By permanently extending the middle-class tax cuts we can send a clear message that we are able work together to provide important tax relief to working families and demonstrate a united commitment to strengthening the American economy.

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As we continue to discuss our proposals to grow the American economy, create jobs, and balance our budget in a responsible way, I urge you to quickly to schedule a vote on a common sense middle-class tax extension with which we all agree.

Sincerely,

Kathleen C. Hochul
Member of Congress