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

September 25, 2013

TODD ROKITA  
4TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE  
ADMINISTRATION

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
AND THE WORKFORCE

ROKITA.HOUSE.GOV

Janet

Wheatfield, IN

Dear

Thank you for attending my Rensselaer Town Hall event on August 20, 2013. I would like to address your question regarding presidential travel.

I share your concern regarding the cost of President Obama's travel. While the cost of presidential travel has always been substantial, in an era of sequestration, I believe the president has failed to demonstrate leadership by reducing his travel expenses. It is simply unacceptable that the White House cannot open for tours, but the president can spend millions of taxpayer dollars on exotic vacations. Given our unprecedented debt, federal spending must be cut across the board, including at the White House. Though Congress does appropriate money to the White House, including for presidential travel, there is executive discretion in how to spend the funds.

You may be interested to know that H. Res. 111 was introduced by Representative Chris Stewart of Utah on March 12, 2013. This bill expresses the sense of the House that the president should refrain from any further taxpayer-funded vacations until the White House can be re-opened for public tours. While I have not made a final decision whether to support this bill, please be assured I will continue looking for way to stop Washington's out-of-control spending, including at the White House.

Again, thank you for attending my Rensselaer Town Hall event. Please stay in touch.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd Rokita".

Todd Rokita  
Member of Congress

TR/tb