

July 13, 2012

Congressman Paul Ryan  
United States House of Representatives  
1233 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ryan,

This is my third letter requesting that you demonstrate your intellectual courage by debating your budget plan in full context with a knowledgeable critic. One such critic is Nobel Prize Laureate Paul Krugman who writes a column in *The New York Times*. Here is what he said on May 28, 2012:

Mr. Ryan has somehow acquired a reputation as a stern fiscal hawk despite offering budget proposals that, far from being focused on deficit reduction, are mainly about cutting taxes for the rich while slashing aid to the poor and unlucky. In fact, once you strip out Mr. Ryan's 'magic asterisk' – claims that he will somehow increase revenues and cut spending in ways that he refuses to specify – what you're left with are plans that would increase, not reduce, federal debt.

The public deserves a civil discussion between you and someone who is your critic otherwise ships passing in the night produce no constructive dialogue as befits a deliberative democracy.

I'm releasing this letter to whatever reporters and commentators eschew the dittohead humdrum routine of congressional coverage.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ralph Nader', written in a cursive style.

Ralph Nader

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