

Representative Paul Ryan  
Chairman House Budget Committee  
1233 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

July 12, 2011

Re: Paul Ryan v. Paul Krugman

Dear Congressman Ryan:

You've put forth your long-term budget plan which has received much mass media attention. You have indicated more than once that the plan has been distorted or misinterpreted. One of your critics is the Nobel Laureate *New York Times* columnist, Paul Krugman.

For the millions of Americans who are perplexed by the commentary and the claims and charges that come forth with blizzard-like intensity, there needs to be some clarity. That is, clarity as to the accuracy of the factual bases of each position and clarity as to what each viewpoint is espousing for the country.

I suggest a debate, with a neutral but knowledgeable moderator, between you and Paul Krugman at the National Press Club. The rules should not be time-frenzied. They should allow calm presentations and exchanges back and forth within a well-structured process and with approved subtopics by the two debaters. You are said to be quick and good on your feet, as is your critic.

Televised, the full debate without any editing would be watched by millions of viewers. It should last 90 minutes to assure a deliberative process that is neither rushed nor long-winded.

On the chance that you do not wish to debate Professor Krugman, would you be willing to debate a leading Democrat from either of the House or the Senate? The people deserve no less.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Ralph Nader

P.O. Box 19312  
Washington, DC 20036  
(202) 387-8030