

## REMARKS AS DELIVERED

Remarks by U.S. Senator Joe Donnelly  
*Hoosier Want Congress to Stop Fighting, Create More Jobs*  
United States Senate Chamber  
Washington, D.C.  
Wednesday, September 25, 2013

When I was working in Indiana last month, there was one thing I heard at everywhere I went: Congress should spend less time fighting and more time focusing on creating jobs.

We've made significant progress in Indiana since seeing unemployment rates, Mr. President, north of 20% in some of the counties just a few years ago, but there is a lot of work yet to be done. Too many Hoosiers are still looking for jobs.

For all of the fighting here in Washington, back home in Indiana, everyone's on the same page: They want good, stable jobs so they can take care of their families, send their kids to college, and retire with dignity.

That's what Hoosiers want. And most think Congress can do something to help in that regard—even if the something is simply “Don't things worse”.

And what, instead, do many of my constituents think they're getting from the legislative branch? George Smeltzer of Nineveh, Indiana sent me an email. He said:

“Enough is enough already! You (both parties) are like a bunch of children playing at recess and all fighting for one toy, unfortunately, the toy is the American people. I've got news for you, most average Americans are NOT liberal lefts' or conservative rights', we are somewhere in the middle and we are tired of being smashed around like ping pong balls in your partisan game of 'politics.’”

Mr. President, we are at another critical point in our ongoing economic recovery. In the next week, this Congress will decide whether to keep the federal government open and operating. In the weeks ahead, this Congress will decide whether to continue to pay the government's bills, our bills.

We can go one way—the responsible way—and show the American people that we are capable of working with one another. Or, we can continue to yell at each other to score political points, refuse to be realistic about the need to find common ground, and shut down the government and stop paying our bills, the bills we are responsible for.

Clearly, I prefer the responsible way. The way that can add thousands of additional jobs for the folks back home who want and need them.

When I first spoke on the Senate floor this spring, I discussed my strong belief that government can help create the conditions necessary for businesses to expand and hire more workers and for the American workforce to be better ready to hit the ground and be moving on day one.

I will offer three straightforward, bipartisan, common sense things that we can do right now to help the economy.

We should pass the bipartisan AMERICA Works Act, introduced by my friend Senator Kay Hagan from North Carolina and supported by myself and Senator Dean Heller so we are training the next generation of employees to have the skills employers need.

We should finish our work on a five-year, bipartisan Farm Bill that the president can sign into law. American farmers deserve that certainty.

We should also cut red tape to encourage private investment in infrastructure. I'm working with Senators Portman and McCaskill on a bill that would cut red tape to improve the permitting process for big infrastructure projects, helping private industry create jobs in Indiana, in Ohio Mr. President, and across the country.

Fights to and possibly beyond the brink over have the government up and running and whether or not to paying the government's bills, our bills, would have a devastating effect on our still-recovering economy.

If, however, we do the responsible thing—if we actually do our jobs—we can help the economy and we can help our constituents and just maybe, as a result, give them reason to have a little more confidence in this institution and in our country's government.

As Sharon O'Brian of Crawfordsville, Indiana, said in an email, "I'm sure many Hoosiers feel as I do: there needs to be compromise between the parties in order to begin solving the many problems facing our country today."

Let's start solving—not creating—problems for our country.

Let's help create jobs.

Let's get to work. And let's build America.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield back.