



For Immediate Release  
October 25, 2012  
Contact: Jon Romano (romano@crfb.org, 617-435-6613)

**More Than 100 Business Leaders Back  
*Campaign to Fix the Debt***

*Campaign's CEO Council Unveiled at NYSE by Leaders from Honeywell, Express Scripts Holding, Marsh & McLennan Companies, World Fuel Services and Others*

October 25, 2012 (NEW YORK, NY): Today, prominent business leaders who support the *Campaign to Fix the Debt* (the *Campaign*) gathered at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) to ring the opening bell and urge policymakers to forge a comprehensive, bipartisan deal addressing America's massive national debt. These business leaders represent companies that employ over six million employees and will play an integral part in building public awareness about the issue, alongside the more than 280,000 American citizens across the country who have already signed the *Fix the Debt* petition.

The participants in the event, all of whom have publicly warned that fiscal uncertainty around the debt is hampering hiring, investment and economic recovery, included Honeywell Chairman and CEO and *Campaign* Steering Committee Member David Cote, Marsh & McLennan Companies President and COO Dan Glaser, World Fuel Services Corporation Executive Chairman Paul Stebbins, Express-Scripts Holding Company Chairman and CEO George Paz and Nicholas Calio CEO and President, Airlines for America. *Campaign* Co-Chair and former U.S. Senator Gregg Judd, *Campaign* Steering Committee members President and COO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation Michael Peterson and Chairman of Willett Advisors LLC Steven Rattner, and Vice Chairman of JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Co-Chairman of J.P. Morgan James B. Lee, Jr. also participated in today's event.

Other prominent business leaders on the CEO Council include BlackRock Chairman and CEO Larry Fink, JPMorgan Chase Chairman and CEO Jamie Dimon, Aetna Chairman, CEO and President Mark Bertolini, Goldman Sachs Chairman and CEO Lloyd Blankfein, and Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer. For the full list, please click [here](#).

"The U.S. has an opportunity to not only fix our debt issue and have an economic recovery," said Honeywell Chairman and CEO and *Campaign* Steering Committee Member Dave Cote, "but we can also be a model for the world in how to deal with debt. What it really comes down to is if we still have the political will to be a great country. Many people in the world and even some countries believe our time is past and we can no longer muster the courage to address tough issues. I don't believe that and neither do most U.S. CEOs. That's why we support the *Campaign to Fix the Debt*. This is an American problem that requires an American solution comprised of higher revenue, reduced entitlement spending, reduced discretionary spending, and investment in infrastructure and math and science. We need to fix the debt now, thoughtfully and proactively, the way a great nation like America should and has throughout our history when confronted by big issues. It's time to pull together and not pull apart."

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"We are one deal away from fixing the debt and putting our nation back on a stronger economic footing that can restore us to greater job growth," said Mark T. Bertolini, Aetna Chairman, CEO and President. "If the Congress can commit to a plan outline as early as possible after the election, it will restore business confidence in our economy and investment will follow."

"Fixing the debt has to be the country's top priority so that companies like ours can continue to provide private sector innovations to solve public healthcare challenges," said George Paz, chairman and CEO of Express Scripts Holding Company. "The causes of the debt include growing healthcare costs, which burden the businesses, health plans, unions and local and state governments that provide pharmacy benefits to Americans. At Express Scripts, we do our part to make the use of prescription drugs safer and more affordable, as we lower costs, drive out waste and improve health outcomes. It is now time for our elected officials to do their part and fix the debt: it will be good for business, good for our employees and good for the future prospect of adding more jobs."

Founded by former Senator Al Simpson and former White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles, the *Campaign to Fix the Debt* has raised over \$30 million to date and is executing a national campaign that includes online efforts, paid advertising and an aggressive grassroots mobilization in 25-35 states to press policymakers to pass meaningful debt legislation.

"The collective voice of these business leaders have helped shine a light on the fact that the debt is already affecting Americans where they work and live," said Maya MacGuineas, who is spearheading the *Campaign* and heads the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. "We've listened to the CEO Council and heard the consequences of inaction - businesses aren't investing in an uncertain economy and are slowing job growth to protect their employees. With the CEOs' backing and the support of our over 280,000 person grassroots network, we believe we can successfully push for a comprehensive debt reduction deal."

The *Campaign* is proudly non-partisan, with a variety of supporters representing all facets of American society including the business community, major domestic advocacy organizations, former policymakers, organized labor and the public.

For more information on *the Campaign to Fix the Debt* please visit [www.fixthedebt.org](http://www.fixthedebt.org).