



May 30, 2023

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker McCarthy and Democratic Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of the National Retail Federation (NRF), I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 3746, the Fiscal Responsibility Act. The legislation will maintain economic stability and avoid any potential disruptions that could negatively impact our members and the broader economy. **For that reason, NRF will consider votes in support of H.R. 3746 as part of the Retail Opportunity Index for our voting scorecard.**

NRF, the world's largest retail trade association, passionately advocates for the people, brands, policies and ideas that help retail succeed. NRF empowers the industry that powers the economy. Retail is the nation's largest private-sector employer, contributing \$3.9 trillion to annual GDP and supporting one in four U.S. Jobs – 52 million working Americans. For over a century, NRF has been a voice for every retailer and every retail job, educating, inspiring and communicating the powerful impact retail has on local communities and global economies.

The retail industry plays a vital role in the economic growth and job creation of our nation. We provide employment opportunities for millions of Americans and contribute significantly to local communities and the overall prosperity of our country. The uncertainty surrounding the debt ceiling, however, poses a significant threat to the stability and growth of the retail sector.

The consequences of failing to raise the debt ceiling would be severe, causing substantial disruptions in the financial markets and potentially leading to a downgrade of the United States' credit rating. Such outcomes would raise borrowing costs for businesses and consumers alike, resulting in reduced access to credit, higher interest rates, and dampened consumer confidence. These factors would directly impact retail sales, business investments, and job creation; creating a ripple effect throughout the entire economy.

We urge you to consider the ramifications of inaction and vote to pass H.R. 3746, the Fiscal Responsibility Act to lift the debt ceiling. Your support will not only safeguard the stability of our economy but also protect the livelihoods of millions of Americans employed in the retail industry and the countless others who depend on its continued success. Thank you for your leadership and the positive impact that your support for lifting the debt ceiling will have on our nation's economy and the retail industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David French". The signature is stylized and cursive.

David French
Senior Vice President, Government Relations

cc: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives