

Dedoceo Habi

To the Chair and Council, and on behalf of the residents of Portland and the surrounding areas, we would like to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to speak today.

On 26 June 2010 several hundred residents from Portland will come together, along with several thousand from across the United States to have a non partisan, open, and empowering conversation on what can be done to respond to the growing problems with our National Budget and Economy.

We have put together a coalition of agencies and Outreach professionals that represent the full spectrum of diversity here, whether it be political ideology, ethnicity, or socioeconomic status.

The purpose of the collaboration represented before you is to make our formal request that you, or a representative from your staff come to the Oregon Convention Center some time on 26 June between 8:30 am and 2:30 pm to observe your community as they engage in cordial, thoughtful, and impactful discourse around the very important topics of the Economy and the Budget.

Beside me are Julie Massa, Laurel Singer and Rich Burke, who will each speak on behalf of the groups they represent.

Julie Massa

Friends, Colleagues and Honorable Portland City Council,

The People of The United States have a spectacular opportunity to deepen and develop our democracy and governance on June 26. I am delighted to report that the People of the Portland-Vancouver region that I've had the privilege to connect with around this project recognize the power and integrity inherent in this effort. The people here, like people throughout this country are eager to take part in a discussion that cuts through simplistic and often misleading explanations of the challenges we face as a nation. They are eager to dissolve the gridlock and hostility that has come to characterize political process. They are eager to find their own voices and have those voices heard. I am deeply honored by the opportunity to participate in this project that will engage the People by listening rather than telling, problem solving rather than hand wringing and will articulate a plan for forward motion. I hope you join us in this project by lending your eyes and ears, and to witness the genuine America of and by the People, speaking.

Richard Burke

Your Honor and members of the Commission,

My name is Richard Burke, and I am responsible for engaging fiscally conservative organizations in this event. The Cascade Policy Institute, Americans for Prosperity, The Oregon TEA Party, The Oregon 9/12 Project, We The People of SouthWest Washington, and Rebuild Oregon will be participating by encourage their members to take part in the conference.

In addition to our nation's \$13T debt, our nation has made financial promises totaling between \$70-\$100T during the next 50 years. As we seek to build sustainable communities, we must begin enacting sustainable budgets in order to secure a high quality of life for future generations. Fiscal conservatives are anxious to engage in this important conversation and is why they will be taking part in the conference on June 26.

Laurel Singer

I represent the National Policy Consensus Center at Portland State University. As experts in practices for effective collaborative governance, we believe that the best and most sustainable solutions to public issues emerge when community representatives are connected with our legislative leaders. Your presence as an observer and witness on June 26th as our local community lends their voices to an important national dialogue is a testimony to your commitment to the value of community engagement and the importance of dialogue and deliberation in public decision making. As a leader in our community your presence on June 26 will directly communicate that what our citizens have to say is important and should be considered in the governance process. (And on a personal note, having been involved in the America Speaks process on several occasions, I just want to add...this truly an amazing experience that I don't think you will want to miss.)

Dedoceo Habi

Thank you for the opportunity to present this invitation and we look forward to speaking with your staff on the particulars. We have information for you which we will hand out now.

AMERICASPEAKS
Engaging Citizens in Governance

Dedoceo Habi
Associate

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Tel 510.388.3714
www.usabudgetdiscussion.org

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National Advisory Committee Members (As of May 12, 2010)

John Rother, AARP
Joe Antos, American Enterprise Institute
Norm Ornstein, American Enterprise Institute
Henry Aaron, Brookings Institution
Thomas Mann, Brookings Institution
John Castellani, Business Roundtable
Neera Tanden, Center for American Progress
Robert Greenstein, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
Deborah Weinstein, Coalition on Human Needs
Maya MacGuineas, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget
Jonathan Gruskin, Concerned Youth of America
Robert Bixby, Concord Coalition
Larry Mishel, Economic Policy Institute
Mark Zandi, Economy.com
Donna Butts, Generations United
Stuart Butler, Heritage Foundation
George Muñoz, Muñoz Group
Janice Gregory, National Academy of Social Insurance
Barbara Kennelly, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
Sarah Hicks, National Congress of American Indians
Linda Rosenberg, National Council of Community Behavioral Health Association
Leticia Miranda, National Council of La Raza
Duane Parde, National Tax Payers Union
Marc Morial, National Urban League
Mark Paul, New America Foundation
Scott Hodge, Tax Foundation
Rudolph Penner, Urban Institute
Margaret Simms, Urban Institute
R. Bruce Josten, US Chamber of Commerce

List of Portland Local Engagement Team Members (As of May 24, 2010)

Jeri Williams, Office Of Neighborhood Involvement, City of Portland
Carrie Hoops, Nonprofit Associations of Oregon/TACS
Bruce Fife, Member of American Federation of Musicians, Local 99
David Leslie, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon
Mirabai Vogt, Portland Business Alliance
Noah Manger, The Bus Project
Nicole Maher, Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)
Linda Nettekoven
Adam Davis, Davis, Hibbitts & Midghall Research
Richard Burke, Americans for Prosperity-Oregon
Wendy Willis, Policy Consensus Initiative/PSU
Dr. T. Allen Bethel, Maranatha Church of Portland
Eric Stanchon, 1000 Friends of Oregon
Robin Teater, American Leadership Forum
David Martinez, Portland Community College
Jeff Ludt, Oregon TEA Party
Randi Kainz, Oregon TEA Party
Steve Buckstein, Cascade Policy Institute



AMERICA SPEAKS
Our Budget, Our Economy

Jeff Anderson, Rebuild Oregon
Sara Seale, Americans for Prosperity-Clackamas County
Bill McKee, Americans for Prosperity-Clackamas County
Terry Busch, We The People of SW Washington
Karen Osborne, We The People of SW Washington
Tom Hann, We The People (Vancouver, WA)
Bob Swift, Oregon 9/12 Project
Randi Kainz, Oregon 9/12 Project

AmericaSpeaks: Our Budget, Our Economy
AMERICASPEAKS
www.americaspeaks.org

View our new blog at www.OpenGovernmentDirections.org



AMERICA SPEAKS **Our Budget, Our Economy**

Frequently Asked Questions

What is AmericaSpeaks: Our Budget, Our Economy?

AmericaSpeaks: Our Budget, Our Economy will engage the American public in an unprecedented national discussion about our federal budget. Thousands of Americans reflecting the demographic, geographic and political diversity of our nation will come together on June 26, 2010, to weigh-in on the difficult choices necessary to put our federal budget on a sustainable path. The deliberation will present the public with a balanced set of options and use technology to identify views that transcend geography, demographics, or politics. The national discussion will produce recommendations to our nation's leaders that reflect the shared priorities of a broad, cross-section of the American public.

AmericaSpeaks: Our Budget, Our Economy has been made possible by the generous contributions of a group of private foundations with diverse interests and programs, including The Peter G. Peterson Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

How will the national discussion work?

On June 26, 2010, thousands of Americans across the country will participate in an unprecedented National Town Meeting on our federal budget. The National Town Meeting will include thousands of people in different locations all across the country connected live via satellite video, webcast, and interactive technologies:

- In 18 cities, thousands of participants reflecting the demographic, geographic and political diversity of the United States will attend **AmericaSpeaks 21st Century Town Meetings** @.
- Thousands more will join the National Town Meeting at volunteer-organized Community Conversations.
- Many more individuals will be able to tune-in from home to watch live video coverage online, participate in the discussion, and share their own priorities in an online forum.

Why are you convening a national discussion on our federal budget? What does it matter?

Unless we do something about it, our national deficit is expected to grow at an unsustainable rate over the next decade. The good news is that we can do something about it. By planning ahead and making good choices about our future, we can start finding agreement about steps to reduce our deficits in the years ahead.

In the next year or two, large deficits will be unavoidable as we continue to implement policies to ensure a robust economic recovery. Nevertheless, we must begin working today to find common ground on the tough choices our nation will have to make in the years ahead to ensure that we are not spending more than we have. Once our economy is stronger and the recession is behind us, we can follow through on our plans to ensure a strong, sustainable fiscal future for our nation.

To put our nation on a more sustainable path, national leaders will face a number of difficult decisions that will be highly contested and sometimes unpopular. Our elected officials, facing tough decisions, need a way to engage voters and better understand the public's priorities. The longer we wait, the harder this problem will be to fix.



Who will participate in the national discussion?

The national discussion will engage a broad cross-section of the American public, reflecting the nation's rich demographic and political diversity. Anyone can participate in the National Town Meeting by registering for one of our 21st Century Town Meeting® sites, our volunteer-organized Community Conversations, or by joining in online. Space is limited at our Town Meeting sites and **AmericaSpeaks** will monitor the registration process to ensure that participation reflects the nation's diversity. If a Town Meeting site is reaching capacity, some registrants will be asked to attend a Community Conversation nearby.

How will the registration process for the meeting work?

Participation is free, but space is limited. Anyone can register at our web site at www.usabudgetdiscussion.org, call toll-free at 866-755-6263, fax a completed registration form to 301-567-9553, or mail a completed registration form to PO Box 623, Oxon Hill, MD 20750-0623.

What if there is not a meeting site near me? What if I am not available on June 26?

New meeting sites are being announced frequently, so check back at www.usabudgetdiscussion.org.

However, if there is not a meeting site near you, you can volunteer to convene your own Community Conversation and invite others from your community to join the National Town Meeting at a forum in your home, office or community center. You can also choose to participate online at www.usabudgetdiscussion.org. Online participants will watch the program's webcast and join online forums.

After June 26, **AmericaSpeaks: Our Budget, Our Economy** will provide additional ways to participate in the national discussion online as well as through Community Conversations.

How will the national discussion make a difference?

AmericaSpeaks, our partners, and the thousands of people who participated in the National Town Meeting will work together to ensure that the values and priorities we agree on are heard and taken seriously by decision-makers in Washington.

AmericaSpeaks will present the priorities that emerge from the National Town Meeting to Congress and President Obama, as well as the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform and the Bi-Partisan Policy Center's Debt Reduction Task Force. The results that emerge from the discussion will have credibility with policymakers because they will reflect the authentic views of a large, informed, and representative group of Americans. The discussion will not be manipulated by any side or point of view, and will give the American public a real chance to find common ground.

In the weeks and months following the event, we will work with participants, as well as our local and national partners, to continue to educate the public about the challenges facing the nation and to raise awareness about the national priorities that were produced through the discussions.



Who is AmericaSpeaks?

AmericaSpeaks is a non-partisan, non-profit organization with the mission to reinvigorate American democracy by engaging citizens in the public decision-making that most impacts their lives.

Over the past 15 years, we have engaged more than 150,000 people across the country on some of the most pressing issues facing our communities and our nation, including the rebuilding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, economic development in Northeast Ohio, and creating municipal budget priorities for Washington, DC. We have done so through innovative meetings that integrate authentic deliberation with new kinds of technology.

AmericaSpeaks takes pride in its reputation as an honest and neutral advocate for public participation. We play a unique role in the policymaking process by serving as a non-partisan convener of forums that provide the public with an opportunity to make decisions about important issues without fear of manipulation or bias. Our ability to help citizens and elected officials come together around tough public issues is dependent on our commitment to maintaining this neutral role. We have not and will never take a position on the outcomes of the national discussion.

Who is paying for the National Discussion?

AmericaSpeaks has assembled a group of funders with diverse interests and programs that strengthen the credibility of the National Town Meeting.

The National Town Meeting is made possible by generous contributions from the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Is the national discussion advocating for a specific solution or position?

This National Town Meeting will be framed by a bipartisan committee of experts representing diverse viewpoints and reviewed by a diverse National Advisory Board to ensure a fair discussion and credible results. **AmericaSpeaks** commits to do everything possible to ensure that the national discussion presents an unbiased set of policy options and creates a neutral space for discussion. We have not and will never take a position on the outcomes of the national discussion.

How are you deciding what questions will be posed to the public?

AmericaSpeaks is working closely with a bipartisan group of experts to frame the choices that will be put before the public. Among the organizations represented are the American Enterprise Institute, the Brookings Institution, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the Heritage Foundation, the Urban Institute, and Economy.com. The work of this committee will be reviewed by our National Advisory Board, which is listed on the project web site.

What happens after June 26?

AmericaSpeaks, our partners, and the thousands of people who participated in the National Town Meeting will work together to ensure that the values and policy priorities we agreed on are heard and taken seriously by decision-makers in Washington. **AmericaSpeaks** will present the priorities that emerge from the National Town Meeting to Congress and President Obama, as well as the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform and the Bi-Partisan Policy Center's Debt Reduction Task Force. In the weeks and months following the event, we will work with participants, as well as our local and national partners, to continue to educate the public about the challenges facing the nation and to raise awareness about the national priorities that were produced through the discussions. Individuals and organizations will have access to an array of tools to stay involved, ranging from writing letters to the editor to facilitating conversations to taking action in their communities.



Register for **AmericaSpeaks Our Budget, Our Economy National Town Meeting**
USABudgetDiscussion.org

YES, I want to attend the June 26, 2010 Town Meeting in **Portland, OR.**

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

What organization told you about this initiative?:

Male Female

Age:
 17-24 25-34 35-44 45-54
 55-64 65 or older

Ethnicity/Race:
 African-American/Black Asian/Asian-American
 Caucasian/White Latino/Hispanic
 Native American Other

Generally speaking, how would you describe yourself?
 Democrat Lean Democrat
 Republican Lean Republican
 I do not lean either way
 Other: _____

Household Income:
 Less than \$25,000 \$25,000 - \$49,999
 \$50,000 - \$74,999 \$75,000 - \$99,000
 \$100,000 and greater Prefer not to say

What services might you need to attend on June 26? Not all services available in all locations. You will be contacted with more information. Check boxes:

Large Print Materials ASL Interpretation
 Spanish Interpretation Spanish Translation
 Transportation Assistance (limited transportation assistance will be available in some locations)
 Child Care (must be out of diapers)
 Number of Children: _____
 Age of Each Child: _____
 Other: _____

Join the national discussion on our federal budget.

Our national deficit is projected to grow at an unsustainable rate over the next 10 years. Our nation's leaders have decided that something needs to be done, but they need to hear from us and they are willing to listen. It is time to come together as a country to make the tough choices that will ensure America's future.

Join Americans at meeting halls across the country linked together by satellite and the Internet to let them know what we think. The National Town Meeting is our chance to learn about the issues, find common ground, and present our priorities to leaders in Washington.



National Town Meeting
Saturday, June 26, 2010, 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM PDT
Oregon Convention Center
777 NE MLK, Jr. Blvd., Portland, OR 97232

Register today! Participation is free, but seating is limited. Go to USABudgetDiscussion.org or call toll-free at 866-755-6263. You can also send the registration form to AmericaSpeaks, PO Box 623, Oxon Hill, MD 20750-0623 or fax to 301-567-9553.

The national discussion is being made possible by grants from The Peter G. Peterson Foundation, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and The W.K. Kellogg Foundation.





AMERICA SPEAKS

Our Budget, Our Economy

A Time To Come Together As A Nation

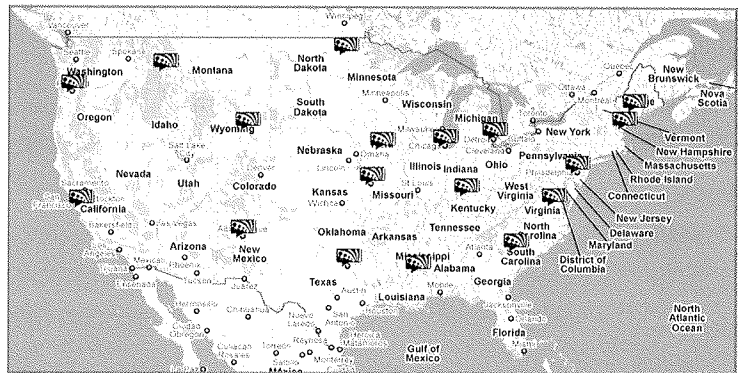
As national leaders work to jumpstart our economy, significant challenges threaten the long-term vitality of the United States – chief among them, a growing federal deficit that is projected to increase at an unsustainable rate. In the next year or two, large deficits will be unavoidable as we continue to implement policies to ensure a strong economic recovery. Nevertheless, we must begin working today to find common ground on the choices our nation will have to make to put our fiscal house in order.

To put our nation on a more sustainable path, national leaders will face an array of decisions that will be highly contested and sometimes unpopular. A national discussion will provide policymakers with a clear sense of where the public shares common priorities and will articulate a public mandate on which to act.

National Discussion On Our Federal Budget

Thousands of Americans reflecting the demographic diversity of our nation will come together on June 26, 2010, to weigh-in on the strategies our nation can take to ensure a strong economic recovery and a sustainable fiscal future. The public deliberation will be thoughtful and highly facilitated to produce recommendations that are grounded in the best information available. Using the latest technology, the diverse group of Americans will identify a set of recommendations that are broadly shared by people from every walk of life.

Americans will come together in 18 cities across the country, linked together by satellite and webcast technology, for a true National Town Meeting. Many other Americans will join the discussion through conversations hosted in homes and community centers across the country. (www.USABudgetDiscussion.org)



Framing the Discussion:

AmericaSpeaks will work closely with a bipartisan group of economists and experts to develop choices that will be put before the public. A diverse national advisory committee representing experts and advocates from across the political spectrum will review the content and provide feedback. AmericaSpeaks is committed to ensuring that the framing of the national discussion is unbiased, fair and accessible to the public. To learn more about the members of the National Advisory Board, visit the project homepage at www.USABudgetDiscussion.org.



How It Will Work:

Large and Small-Scale Forums: A demographically representative group of citizens will be recruited to represent the rich diversity of the nation. These participants will come together at a mix of large and small meeting sites in 18 locations across the country. Six of these sites will convene several hundred people and 12 other sites will convene smaller groups. Participants at all of the sites will use keypad polling and groupware computer technology to register their priorities.



Video Linking the Nation: All 18 meeting sites will be linked together by satellite and webcast to create a true National Town Meeting. Participants will learn about the issue from experts, deliberate locally, and share their ideas with others across the nation.

Community Conversations and Virtual Participation: Additionally, any American will be able to convene a conversation, participate in the national webcast, and submit their ideas online.

Who Is Behind The National Discussion?

The project is made possible by a group of diverse and private foundations, including the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

AmericaSpeaks is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that provides citizens with a voice on the most important decisions that impact their lives. The organization has convened more than 150,000 people to shape policymaking. AmericaSpeaks' track record includes:



Shaping New Orleans' Recovery: Thousands of returned and displaced residents of New Orleans came together across 21 cities to shape the Unified New Orleans Plan:
<http://www.americaspeaks.org/resources/video/unop> (Video)



Weighing in on Health Care Reform: 3,500 Californians came together across eight cities to join a statewide discussion on health care reform in 2007:
www.americaspeaks.org/resources/video/californiaspeaks (Video)



Revitalizing Northeast Ohio's Economy: More than 20,000 residents of Northeast Ohio came together to create a regional agenda for economic revitalization: www.americaspeaks.org/voices (Case Study).

Learn more about the national discussion at www.USABudgetDiscussion.org, or visit AmericaSpeaks' web site to learn more about our past work at www.americaspeaks.org.

PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION REQUEST
Wednesday Council Meeting 9:30 AM

Council Meeting Date: 26 MAY 2010

AUDITOR 05/06/10 PM 2:08

Today's Date 6 MAY 2010

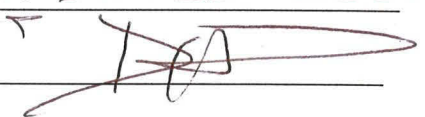
Name DEDOCEO HABI

Address P.O. BOX 10535, OAKLAND, CA 94610

Telephone 510.388.3714 Email DHABI@AMERICA SPEAKS. ORG

Reason for the request:

INVITE COMMISSIONERS TO
OBSERVE A TOWNHALL MEETING EVENT
ON 26 JUNE 2010 AT PORTLAND
CONVENTION CENTER WHERE SEVERAL
HUNDRED RESIDENT WILL DISCUSS SOLUTIONS
TO NATIONAL ECONOMY & BUDGET

(signed) 

- Give your request to the Council Clerk's office by Thursday at 5:00 pm to sign up for the following Wednesday Meeting. Holiday deadline schedule is Wednesday at 5:00 pm. (See contact information below)

AMERICASPEAKS
Engaging Citizens in Governance

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Associate

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1050 17th St NW Suite 350 Washington, DC 20036 www.americaspeaks.org

Agenda as a "Communication." Communications are taken promptly at 9:30 a.m. A total of five Individuals must schedule their own Communication.

I may also submit written testimony before or at the

active participant in your City government.

Contact Information:

Karla Moore-Love, City Council Clerk
1221 SW 4th Ave, Room 140
Portland, OR 97204-1900
(503) 823-4086 Fax (503) 823-4571
email: kmoore-love@ci.portland.or.us

Sue Parsons, Council Clerk Assistant
1221 SW 4th Ave., Room 140
Portland, OR 97204-1900
(503) 823-4085 Fax (503) 823-4571
email: sparsons@ci.portland.or.us

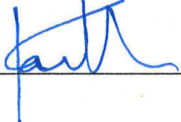
Request of Dedoceo Habi to address Council regarding a townhall meeting to discuss solutions to national economy and budget (Communications)

MAY 26 2010

PLACED ON FILE

Filed MAY 21 2010

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Leonard		
Adams		