

## It's Time to Lead

It's been over a week since the government shutdown started and I cannot think of a single American whose life is better because of it.

As elected officials, we have a responsibility to serve our constituents. This government shutdown is hurting the livelihood of American citizens. They don't have time to wait for their lawmakers in Washington to stare each other down; they have bills to pay and children to feed. It is irresponsible to ask them to wait for you to duel it out or see which side blinks first.

It's time for our leaders to come to a resolution because, at the end of the day, it's about the people who gave you your jobs in Washington. Give them their jobs back, restore the critical functions our government provides, and find a different way to discuss your concerns. Seize this opportunity to prove to current and future generations that, even when the debate is heated and the challenges are great, there is no obstacle Americans cannot overcome when we work together.

You have the power to end this today. Lead by example and please get back to business. We all have work to do.

(OPTIONAL...I'm just not sure where to put this: I'm happy to say that we do things differently in Vermont. Regardless of our party differences, we would never gamble with the well-being of those who put us in office. We'd find a room, shut the door, and not come out until we had a solution.

CUT: It seems as though every side is trying to declare victory and label their opponents as losers. With that as a goal no one wins. In fact, every one of us loses. The longer the House, the Senate and President Obama perpetuate this finger pointing and name calling, the harder it becomes to reach a solution that allows everyone to save face. Everyone in Washington should take the fingers they are using to point at others and instead point them at themselves while asking, "What can I do to solve this problem?" )