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## Rod Blum urges watchful eye on Congress as holiday spending season progresses

While most Americans are busy making plans for Christmas, Rod Blum urges taxpayers to keep an eye on Congress and its end-of-year spending spree. After failure of the Super Committee to agree on how to cut \$1.2 trillion in spending over 10 years, members of Congress are working their calculators overtime. “Most Americans enter the holiday shopping season with a not-to-exceed budget of how much they intend to spend,” Blum said. “You would think the caretakers of the federal checkbook in Washington DC would do the same.”

“Washington is poised to spend \$120 billion to renew Social Security payroll tax cuts, \$50 billion to continue unemployment benefits to people out of work for more than six months and \$30 billion to physicians who provide Medicare services. Some or all of these may be needed expenditures but they must be offset with spending cuts in other areas. This is exactly the reason our \$15 trillion federal debt continues to grow unabated,” Blum added.

Blum also added, “To say that spending cuts will automatically kick-in due to the failure of the Super Committee is disingenuous at best. Only in Washington DC is a decrease of a projected increase called a cut. Government has grown every year since I’ve been alive and it’s to the point where government is crowding out the private sector -- this trend must stop.”

“As I travel around Iowa the people I speak with are tired of the “crisis du jour” mentality of Washington. It’s fairly obvious to Iowan’s that an annual budget and longer range planning are needed. The constant threat of government shutdowns and Social Security and military checks not going out are wearing thin on average Americans,” Blum noted.

“The only way this country will ever get a handle on the debt and turn this economy around is by cutting federal spending, cutting federal regulations that are strangling small business, and limiting the federal government to those duties and responsibilities specified in the Constitution.”