Rep. Jeff Fortenberry said Monday he's not as optimistic as he once was about reaching an agreement that avoids America's tumble off the so-called fiscal cliff.

"I was hopeful by this point we would see a trajectory out of this," the 1st District Republican congressman said. "But we don't have a trajectory at the moment."

The last thing the American people want is a standoff that triggers a series of sharp tax increases and spending cuts that could threaten economic recovery, Fortenberry said.

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