



BUDGET COMMITTEE



Judd Gregg, Ranking Member
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Senate Budget Committee Chairman Gregg Offers Amendment to Reduce Wasteful Federal Spending

Senate Budget Committee Chairman Judd Gregg today joined Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) in offering an amendment to S.1, the ethics reform bill, which would reduce wasteful federal spending. The amendment also is co-sponsored by Republican Leader Mitch McConnell, Republican Whip Trent Lott and 23 other Senate Republicans.

“All too often, earmarks and new mandatory spending proposals are inserted into omnibus spending and tax bills that are frequently passed in the middle of night with no time to review or amend,” said Chairman Gregg. “This amendment would allow Congress to take a second look at some of this spending, and judge it based on its merits.”

The amendment, *A Second Look at Wasteful Spending*, would give the President the opportunity to force Congress to take a second look at wasteful spending - including both discretionary spending and new mandatory spending – as well as targeted tax cuts. Under the amendment:

- The President can send up to 4 rescission packages per year.
- Congress would be required to fast track the President’s recommendation within 8 days.
- Unlike the previous 1996 line-item veto proposal, *A Second Look at Wasteful Spending* requires Congressional affirmation of the President’s rescission package.
- Savings from rescissions passed by Congress must be used for deficit reduction.
- The authority sunsets after 4 years – giving Congress the ability to evaluate merits of rescission authority after President Bush and his successor have had the opportunity to use.

“At a time when spending restraint is critical, *A Second Look at Wasteful Spending* would help identify and eliminate wasteful spending that we cannot afford, as well as help block new, permanent spending programs that add to the deficit,” said Chairman Gregg. “I hope that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, who have claimed that fiscal responsibility is one of their top priorities, will join me in championing this excellent tool for fiscal restraint.”

A Second Look at Wasteful Spending is supported by the White House, and enjoys broad support from business and fiscal watchdog groups, including: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, The Business Roundtable, National Federation of Independent Business, The Bond Market Association, Citizens Against Government Waste, Americans for Tax Reform, National Taxpayers Union, Concord Coalition, The American Conservative Union, Center for Individual Freedom, Traditional Values Coalition, 60 Plus Associations, FreedomWorks, Americans for Prosperity and The Club for Growth.