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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6100

G. WILLIAM HOAGLAND, STAFF DIRECTOR
BRUCE KING, STAFF DIRECTOR FOR THE MINORITY

<http://www.senate.gov/committee/budget.html>

September 23, 1998

The Honorable Trent Lott
Majority Leader
The Honorable Tom Daschle
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20501

Dear Trent & Tom:

We are writing to urge you to make enactment of legislation to move to a two-year appropriations and budget cycle a bipartisan priority early in the first session of the 106th Congress. A biennial budget would do more to streamline the budget and appropriation process, strengthen congressional oversight, hold us more accountable to our constituents, and enhance the quality of the life of the Senate than any other reform proposal.

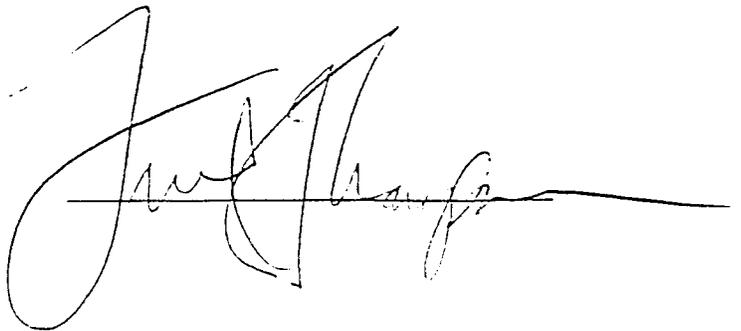
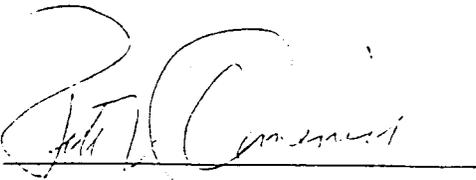
This reform enjoys broad bipartisan support. The Clinton Administration supports this reform, this proposal was a principal recommendation of the last Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress, and the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee voted to favorably report the Biennial Budgeting and Appropriations Act (S.261) by a vote of 13-1.

A biennial appropriations and budget process dovetails with the two year time period for a Congress. Under a biennial budget, the President would submit a two-year budget in the first session of a Congress. The priority of the first session of the Congress would be completion of a biennial budget resolution and biennial appropriations bills. The second session would be reserved for authorization and other non-budgetary legislation and oversight.

The annual appropriations and budget process increasingly dominates the congressional agenda and we regularly fail to meet our deadlines. We frequently debate the same issues over and over again on the budget resolution, again on authorization bills, and finally in the appropriations process. We miss our deadlines, waste countless hours of the Senate's time, and confuse an increasingly cynical public on the issues. The result is that we spin our wheels, all at the expense of careful deliberation by the Senate on oversight of existing programs and consideration of legislation.

Let us move quickly at the beginning of the 106th Congress to make this important reform law.

Sincerely,



Phil 4

Craig Thomas

Hubell Ford

Chuck Bradley

Bob Swan

Ray Bailey Hutchison

Jeff Lewis

David

Steven Thompson

Bob Lott

Jim Craig

Bill Janni

Ken Cant

Bill Red

Olympic Snow

Robert J. Bennett

Carl

Paul Sutorius

Paul G. Fitch

Sam

Don Nick

Joe

High Length

Full

Jim [unclear]

Michael B. [unclear]

Chuck Rolfe

[unclear]

Casey Hageman

John Breaux

Bob Smith

T. Hutchinson

Jim Jeffords

Ph. McLean

Spencer Abraham

Mike Lujan

John Chafee
