

What They're Saying...

Bipartisan Support For The Line-Item Veto Legislation

"[W]e're urging Congress to give this President and future Presidents the opportunity to be able to have what is very much similar to a line-item veto. ... I appreciate the support of both Republicans and Democrats on the Hill in supporting the bill that we've submitted. I urge the Congress to pass this type of legislation so that we can work together to get our deficit cut in half by 2009, but, more importantly, assure the American people that we're being wise about how we use their money."
– President Bush, 6/8/06

Members Of The U.S. House of Representatives From Both Sides Of The Aisle Support Line-Item Veto Legislation

House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL): "The line item veto is a positive tool for good governing and fiscal responsibility. I supported this measure in 1996 when we passed a line item veto proposal under President Clinton. Waste is waste, and all of us have a responsibility to help root it out and protect the American taxpayers' dollars." (Rep. Dennis Hastert, "Speaker Hastert Comments On President Bush's Line Item Veto Proposal," Press Release, 3/6/06)

House Majority Leader John Boehner (R-OH): "I have always supported giving the President the authority to exercise the line item veto as a means to help rein in wasteful spending. It is a useful tool that rejects the status quo as well as the agenda of more government spending that congressional Democrats want desperately to protect." (Rep. John Boehner, "Boehner Statement On Line Item Veto," Press Release, 3/6/06)

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI): "This legislative line-item veto passes constitutional muster and serves as a powerful tool to target questionable earmarks and give Congress the chance to judge them on their own merits, rather than as part of a larger spending bill." (Rep. Paul Ryan, "Ryan Introduces Line-Item Veto Legislation to Combat Wasteful Spending," Press Release, 03/07/06)

Rep. Mark Udall (D-CO): "I think it's an opportunity for Democrats to demonstrate our commitment to fiscal discipline." ("Udall, Musgrave Put Politics Aside On Line-Item Veto," [Denver, CO] *Rocky Mountain News*, 3/17/06)

Rep. Jim Matheson (D-UT): "I strongly support efforts to restore fiscal discipline to the federal budget process. This legislation would give the President the authority to propose the elimination of wasteful spending and special-interest tax breaks, while preserving Congress' power of the purse under the Constitution...Governors in more than 40 states have line item veto authority, as a tool to achieve balanced budgets. I see this as another arrow in the quiver as we attempt to enforce some budget discipline." (Rep. Jim Matheson, "Matheson Cosponsors Line Item Veto Measure," Press Release, 3/7/06)

House Judiciary Chairman Jim Sensenbrenner (R-WI): "I agree with the President that the Federal budget includes too many special projects, better known as 'pork.' To that end, I support providing the President with a line item veto." (Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, "Sensenbrenner Statement After President Bush's Speech On The State Of The Union," Press Release, 1/31/06)

Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN): "There is no single reform that would do more to put our fiscal house in order than the line item veto." (Editorial, "New Life For The Line-Item Veto," *The Augusta [GA] Chronicle*, 3/24/06)

Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-TX): "In my state, for example, in Texas, we have the following budget tools – and I support tools like this: Pay-as-you-go – I support that; sunset commission – I support that; performance-based budgeting, legislative oversight – I definitely support that; line-item veto – I support that and, in fact, am a co-sponsor with Mr. Ryan here." (Committee On The Budget, U.S. House Of Representatives, Hearing, 5/25/06)

Rep. Jeff Flake (R-AZ): "We talk a lot about giving the president line-item veto authority. I think that he ought to have it." (Federal Financial Management, Government Information And International Security Subcommittee, Senate Homeland Security And Governmental Affairs Committee, U.S. Senate, Hearing, 3/16/06)

Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH): "We face serious budget problems. Congress is simply spending too much money. Our national debt is now \$8.3 trillion – with hundreds of billions being added every year – that future generations of Americans will have to repay. ... I am committed to stopping this spending and the line-item veto is a good start." (Judiciary Subcommittee On The Constitution, U.S. House Of Representatives, Hearing, 5/2/06)

Rep. Ernest Istook (R-OK): "I've always supported the line-item veto. The Supreme Court ruled against our last effort, but we shouldn't give up. We need a line-item veto for the President..." (Rep. Istook, "Congressman Istook Statement Regarding President Bush's Line Item Veto Proposal," Press Release, 3/6/06)

Rep. Phil English (R-PA): "As we've learned from the Pennsylvania state government, the line-item veto is an effective tool for blocking pork barrel spending that sneaks through the legislature." (Rep. Phil English, "English Backs Line-Item Veto Legislation To Crack Down On Pork Barrel Spending," Press Release, 3/15/06)

Rep. Tom Feeney (R-FL): "A presidential line item veto will hold lawmakers accountable for the spending proposals they introduce. Accountability and transparency of pork projects are crucial to successful spending reform." (Rep. Tom Feeney, "Feeney Co-sponsors Line Item Veto Legislation," Press Release, 3/9/06)

Rep. Jeb Hensarling (R-TX): "Giving the President line-item veto authority is essential to enforcing the budget and restoring fiscal sanity in Washington." (Rep. Jeb Hensarling, "Hensarling Supports Presidential Line-Item Veto," Press Release, 3/6/06)

Rep. George Radanovich (R-CA): "The line-item veto would be an important tool in helping to restrain spending and bring fiscal responsibility back to Washington." (Rep. George Radanovich, "Radanovich Offers Support For Line-Item Veto Proposal," Press Release, 3/6/06)

Rep. Jean Schmidt (R-OH): "The line item veto would be a useful tool designed to reduce the budget deficit, improve accountability and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely." (Rep. Jean Schmidt, "Eliminating Wasteful Spending," Press Release, 3/10/06)

Rep. Kenny Marchant (R-TX): "Forty-three governors, including Texas Governor Rick Perry, have line-item veto power to reduce spending. The President should have similar rights to control wasteful spending." (Rep. Kenny Marchant, "Managing Your Tax Dollars Wisely," Press Release, 4/21/06)

Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-CO): "President Bush's proposal will shine light on egregious spending measures and is akin to what I've long supported. In Congress, sunshine is the best disinfectant." (Rep. Marilyn Musgrave, "Pres. Bush's Veto Proposal Akin To Rep. Musgrave's," Press Release, 3/6/06)

Rep. Mark Kennedy (R-MN): "We need to give the President the tools to strip excessive spending earmarks from needed legislation and I remain committed to providing him with the line-item veto." (Rep. Mark Kennedy, "Bush Cites Two Kennedy Initiatives In State Of The Union Address," Press Release, 1/31/06)

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