

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 U.S. Senate From Both Sides Of The Aisle Support Line-Item Veto Legislation

Sen. Bill Frist (R-TN): "This is legislation long overdue. It is an authority provided in one version or another to 43 Governors today. It is an authority that has been requested by at least 11 President's including Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton." (Sen. Bill Frist, Remarks On The Introduction Of Legislative Line Item Veto Act, 3/7/06)

Sen. John Kerry (D-MA): "President Bush and I have plenty of differences, but I fully support giving him the line-item veto because what's happening in Washington is an insult to American taxpayers." (Sen. John Kerry, Letter, "Give President Power Of Line-Item Veto," *USA Today*, 3/28/06)

Sen. John McCain (R-AZ): "We need to pass a line-item veto." (Adam Nagourney, "Budget Restraint Emerges As G.O.P. Theme For 2008," *The New York Times*, 3/13/06)

Sen. Evan Bayh (D-IN): "'Senator Bayh supports giving the president a line-item veto to use as a tool to eliminate pork barrel spending,' said spokeswoman Meghan Keck." (James R. Carroll, "Lawmakers Favor Move To Give President A Limited Line-Item Veto," *The Courier-Journal*, 3/12/06)

Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-TN): "If we're going to get Federal spending under control, there are a number of reforms we need to enact, including the legislative line item veto. Line item veto power gives the President the authority – as more than 40 governors now have – to guard against attempts to force unnecessary pork-barrel projects on taxpayers." (Sen. Lamar Alexander, "Alexander Cosponsors Line Item Veto Legislation," Press Release, 3/7/06)

Sen. Jim Talent (R-MO): "This is a pretty simpl[e] idea. It is tested. It will work. And if the system here is serious about eliminating abusive or wasteful spending, this is what we will do." (Sen. Jim Talent, Press Conference, 3/9/06)

Sen. George Allen (R-VA): "... I believe it's very important that the President be accorded the authority of the line-item veto." (Sen. George Allen, Press Conference, 3/9/06)

Sen. Norm Coleman (R-MN): "[The line-item veto is a] no-brainer, the right thing to do." (Sen. Norm Coleman, Press Conference, 3/9/06)

Sen. Saxby Chambliss (R-GA): "The line-item veto will help defend American taxpayers against wasteful Federal spending and bring fiscal restraint to the federal spending process." (Sen. Saxby Chambliss, "Chambliss: Line-Item Veto Would Protect Taxpayers, Bring Fiscal Restraint," Press Release, 3/9/06)

Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY): "The potential savings are great and government owes it to the taxpayers to put in place this important tool in controlling spending." (Sen. Mike Enzi, "Enzi Supports Tool For Fiscal Responsibility," Press Release, 3/7/06)

Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY): "Robert Steurer, McConnell's spokesman, said McConnell 'believes this legislation will provide the president and Congress with a useful tool to identify and eliminate wasteful spending.'" (James R. Carroll, "Lawmakers Favor Move To Give President A Limited Line-Item Veto," *The Courier-Journal*, 3/12/06)

Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R-RI): "This is a fiscally prudent measure which could reduce wasteful spending and bring down our nation's deficit." (Sen. Lincoln Chafee, "Chafee Cosponsors Presidential Line Item Veto Proposal," Press Release, 3/7/06)

Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC): "I applaud the President for supporting line-item veto authority. Earmarks have gotten out of control and Congress should act quickly to give the President this important fiscal tool." (Sen. Jim DeMint, "DeMint: President Already Has Virtual Line Item Veto," Press Release, 3/6/06)

Sen. Wayne Allard (R-CO): "It offers an effective, functional tool to reduce wasteful, unnecessary spending." (Sen. Wayne Allard, "Senator Allard Co-Sponsors Line-Item Veto Legislation," Press Release, 5/1/06)

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