

Waste Action Alert

*A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman*

Eliminate Excess Federal Property

March 2, 2011

Program or Item Targeted: Excess federal property.

Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted: In a 2007 report, OMB determined the federal government is holding \$18 billion in real property that it does not need. In an updated assessment, current OMB director [Peter Orszag](#) estimated there are 14,000 federal buildings and structures designated as excess and 55,000 identified as underutilized or unused. The federal government wastes untold amounts of taxpayer dollars managing and maintaining property it doesn't even need. Despite recent reports from OMB, bureaucratic rules and regulations continue to prohibit agencies from disposing of unneeded property.

President Obama more recently stated, in a June 10th White House [memorandum](#), "My Administration is committed to eliminating all forms of Government waste.... I hereby direct executive departments and agencies to accelerate efforts to identify and eliminate excess properties."

Why This Program or Item Is Wasteful: The United States government is over \$14 trillion in debt. The government can no longer foot the bill for vacant buildings and special interest projects. Government property that serves no public good should be immediately returned to private ownership. The American people and the Obama Administration agree: now is the time for Congress to act.

MEMBER ACTION ITEM: Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) has introduced H.R. 665. This legislation that would require the Office of Management and Budget to sell excess federal property valued at over \$18 billion, with 80% of the revenues reserved for debt reduction. The other 20% would be set aside for the individual agencies which owned the property, and acts as an incentive to encourage agencies to identify and dispose of their excess property.

All RSC Members are encouraged to cosponsor H.R. 665 by contacting [Fred Ferguson](#). This legislation is identical to Rep. Chaffetz's H.R. 5535, in the 111th Congress. During the 111th Congress, H.R. 5535 was highlighted by the [RSC Sunset Caucus](#), and also by the YouCut program. H.R. 5535 failed to pass, when voted on via Previous Question, by a [roll call vote of 241-179](#), in the House of Representatives, then under the leadership of Speaker Pelosi and the Democrat majority.

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus please e-mail Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov.
Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

*"The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it,
working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn't be paying for."*