

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

## Consolidate the DOE and EPA

May 9, 2012

**Program or Item Targeted:** The CHOP Act would consolidate the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency into one agency called the Department of Energy and the Environment.

**Cost of Program or Item:** This bill would reduce unnecessary spending by upwards of \$5.3 billion.

**Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted:** The United States Department of Energy (D.O.E.) was created under President Carter in 1977, and is controlled by the Secretary of Energy, a presidential appointee. It describes its mission as “to ensure America’s security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions.” The Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) was created by President Nixon in 1970 by executive order, and describes its mission as to “protect human health and the environment.”

**Why This Item Is Wasteful:** The E.P.A. has become infamous for using taxpayer funds to impede businesses and disrupt the lives of individual citizens in the name of environmental protection and regulation. Within the past year the agency has attempted to regulate farm dust, move families away from their homes because they lived by a particular lake, and attempted to institute new rules which would contribute to rising gas prices. What is more, the Government Accountability Office has made clear that significant savings can be achieved through the consolidation of duplicative or fractured programs in the federal government. Currently the E.P.A. and the D.O.E. overlap in many areas, and with a \$15 Trillion debt, we cannot afford billions of dollars in duplicative spending.

**MEMBER ACTION ITEM:** Rep. Marsha Blackburn has introduced H.R. 4295, the Consolidate Heavy-handed and Outdated Programs (CHOP) Act. The goal of this legislation to achieve cost savings by combining duplicative functions, and to improve the administration of our country’s energy and environmental policies by ensuring a coordinated approach. For any questions or if you would like to cosponsor, please contact Sean McLean on at [sean.mclean@mail.house.gov](mailto:sean.mclean@mail.house.gov).

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail [Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov](mailto:Rick.Eberstadt@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.”*

