



Sunset Caucus

## Waste Action Alert

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

### **Stop U.S. Taxpayer Subsidies for the International Fund for Ireland**

*January 27, 2010*

Program or Item Targeted: U.S. funding for the International Fund for Ireland

One-year Cost of Program or Item: \$17 million in FY2010, up from \$15 million in FY2009

Background on Program or Item to be Sunsetting: The International Fund for Ireland was established by the Irish and British governments in the 1986 to promote peace in Northern Ireland. Historically, 80% of the funding has been appropriated for Northern Ireland and 20% for counties in the Republic of Ireland that border Northern Ireland. The Fund receives contributions from the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the European Union. According to Citizens for Government Waste, U.S. taxpayers have contributed \$280 million to the Fund since 1996.

Why This Program is Wasteful: U.S. contributions to the fund are no longer justified. The International Fund for Ireland was created at a time when Ireland was a poor country, particularly by European standards, and sectarian violence in Northern Ireland was a major problem. Since that time, Ireland has become a very wealthy country by promoting pro-business policies, including a 12.5% corporate income tax rate, which has attracted billions of dollars in foreign investment. Ireland's GDP per capita is fifth highest in the world adjusted for purchasing power parity according to the World Bank (2008). At the same time, sectarian violence in Northern Ireland has dramatically decreased.

Legislative Action Taken So Far: Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) has introduced HR2915 which prohibits United States contributions to the International Fund for Ireland. While supporters of the International Fund for Ireland maintain that U.S. funding for this program will eventually be phased out in the near future, no definite time line has been proposed.

**MEMBER ACTION ITEM:** RSC Members are encouraged to cosponsor HR2915 by contacting [mike.jerman@mail.house.gov](mailto:mike.jerman@mail.house.gov).

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

If you have a bill or amendment to highlight in the next Waste Action Alert please contact [ryan.tronovitch@mail.house.gov](mailto:ryan.tronovitch@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."*

**RSC**   
Republican Study Committee