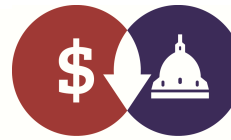




AMERICANS  
*for* TAX REFORM



COST OF  
GOVERNMENT  
CENTER

The Honorable Reid Ribble  
1513 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ribble,

We write to express support for your bill, the Biennial Budgeting and Enhanced Oversight Act of 2013. The legislation, H.R. 1869, offers a new approach to solve Washington gridlock, and improve accountability in federal spending.

The bill would shift Congress from a one-year to a two-year budgeting cycle, congruent with the full term of each Congress. H.R. 1869 would replace the status quo of stopgap appropriations and ad-hoc budgeting with consistent expectations for federal finance.

Importantly, the bill improves the budget process by using half of the two-year budget cycle to focus lawmakers' efforts on oversight. With increased accountability in how tax dollars are being spent, budget writing can be more informed and efficient.

The bill could reverse current practices that are biased towards waste, not prudence. Agencies are rarely able to plan effectively in the shortened budget windows created by stopgap measures. As such, most develop a "use it or lose it" mentality, spending billions in the last few weeks of the year to avoid having their baselines reduced the following year.

To combat this waste, the Biennial Budgeting and Enhanced Oversight Act would enforce measures for accountability that complement – instead of compete with – the annual budget process. Ensuring public dollars are being spent as effectively as possible should be a priority for Congress.

The uncertainty created by inconsistent budget practices and governing "from crisis to crisis" benefits no one, least of all taxpayers who are footing the bill for ineffective government. Efforts to increase accountability and streamline federal spending should be encouraged. We urge your colleagues to support your Biennial Budget and Enhanced Oversight Act.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist  
President  
Americans for Tax Reform

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