



November 22, 2013

The Honorable Reid Ribble
United States House of Representatives
1513 Longworth
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ribble:

Third Way is pleased to support the Biennial Budgeting and Enhanced Oversight Act of 2013 (H.R. 1869).

Every year, Congress faces annual battles over how to spend taxpayers' money, but precious little effort goes into how to both save it and use it more effectively. A biennial budget would enable Congress to be a better steward of taxpayer's dollars. Instead of an annual budget process, which Congress rarely completes on time, Congress would be able to devote the second year of a two-year budget cycle to oversight, streamlining, and elimination of government programs that are no longer necessary.

This approach would give Congress and executive agencies a chance to develop and implement policy with more predictability and accountability. A shift to a longer-term plan would bring government in line with well-established business practices that have been used in the private sector for decades. A biennial budget would also increase predictability and stability for state and local governments, which rely on federal funding and regularly enter into joint ventures with the federal government.

A comprehensive biennial budget cycle would also encourage more vigorous oversight of federal programs. This improvement would help reorient congressional responsibility away from simply spending money, and towards effective stewardship of the nation. America's fiscal health depends to a great extent on the dedication of congressional oversight. With such a process, budget reform would become a critical part of smart fiscal policy.

Too often we hear the budget process is broken, and too little about fixing it. Congress now has an opportunity to fight for and win a better budget process. To that end, we are pleased to support the Biennial Budgeting and Enhanced Oversight Act of 2013 (H.R. 1869).

Sincerely,

Gabe Horwitz
Director of the Economic Program
Third Way