



June 16, 2011

The Honorable Charles Bass
2350 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bass,

We write to encourage support of your bill to create the Committee on the Reduction of Nonessential Federal Programs. This bill is an important step in combating the Washington bias towards spending through the creation of a Committee dedicated to eliminating government waste, redundancy, and inefficiency.

The Committee on the Reduction of Nonessential Federal Programs has a venerable history going back to its creation by the 77th Congress in 1941. Named after its creator, Senator Harry F. Byrd Sr. (D-VA), the “Byrd Committee” was formed to identify and eliminate redundant and unnecessary federal programs. In the first few years of its existence it netted \$38 billion in savings (in adjusted dollars).

Rather than subsidize World War II through increased taxes, the Byrd Committee was committed to eliminating federal programs, which included many of the most ineffective New Deal projects, including the Works Projects Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. After numerous federal bailouts and government spending under the guise of “stimulus,” taxpayers would be well-served by a similar effort today.

Your bill would create a Committee charged with the sole duty of eliminating the redundancies and inefficiencies that add to the cost of government. Several committees exist which could perform this function, but they are too distracted by their ability to spend money. This Committee would have the unique responsibility of targeting all government spending, creating real savings for taxpayers. Tasked with this singular goal, the Committee could focus on finding substantive ways to decrease the size of the federal government and eliminate redundant and inefficient spending.

The bill also requires an expedited review process for any legislation reported from the Committee. All legislation reported from the Committee would be granted an up-or-down vote without any intervening motion or action – ensuring real spending reform is debated on the floor. While the committee is established as a temporary committee, it is our hope that it would be made permanent to continue to root out waste and abuse.

Thus, we urge support of your bill to create the Committee on the Reduction of Nonessential Federal Programs, and look forward to working with you to promote fiscal responsibility in federal spending.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

Mattie Corrao
Executive Director
Center for Fiscal Accountability

722 12th Street N.W.

Fourth Floor

Washington, D.C.

20005

T: (202) 785-0266

F: (202) 785-0261

www.atr.org