



AMERICANS
for TAX REFORM

 Center for
Fiscal
Accountability

January 28, 2011

The Honorable Jeff Duncan
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Duncan,

We write to encourage your colleagues to cosponsor and otherwise support your bill to create the Committee on Reduction of Nonessential Federal Programs. This bill signals a serious first step in reforming federal spending and provides prudent lawmakers with an important tool to decrease the size of government.

The Committee on Reduction of Nonessential Federal Programs is not a new idea – in fact, the committee existed first in the 77th Congress after it was proposed by Senator Harry F. Byrd Sr. (D-Va.). Named after its creator, the “Byrd Committee” was tasked solely with cutting unnecessary and redundant federal programs and was able to enact real reform to that end – the Committee netted over \$38 billion in savings (in adjusted dollars) in just its first few years of existence.

Created in 1941, the Committee was integral in dialing back some of the exponential New Deal growth in government. After two years of bailouts and government “stimulus,” American taxpayers could benefit greatly from a similar effort aimed at decreasing the burden of government.

Your bill would create a Standing Committee that would focus solely on eliminating the redundancies and inefficiencies that add to the cost of government. While several committees exist today that encourage and promote new spending, this Committee would have the unique responsibility of decreasing outlays and finding savings. Tasked with this singular goal, the Committee could pave the way for significant spending reform.

The bill also requires an expedited review process for any legislation reported from the Committee. This ensures the measures will not be diluted and will receive an up-or-down vote on the floor of the House.

Thus, we urge support of your bill to create the Committee on Reduction of Nonessential Federal Programs, and look forward to working with you in the 112th Congress to promote fiscal responsibility.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

Mattie Corrao
Executive Director
Center for Fiscal Accountability

Cc: All Members of the United States House of Representatives

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