



January 28, 2011

The Honorable Jim Jordan  
United States House of Representatives  
1524 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Jordan:

On behalf of the 362,000 members of the National Taxpayers Union (NTU), I write in support of your "Spending Reduction Act," which would pare back federal outlays by \$2.5 trillion over the next ten years.

This week, in his 2011 State of the Union address, President Obama called for a two-year extension of a proposal he made last year to freeze certain discretionary spending. Over a ten-year scoring window, the extension would provide \$150 billion in savings on top of the \$250 billion saved from the President's original plan. While it is always more desirable to see a freeze over dramatic increases, we must remember that FY 2010 spending levels are already too high. Furthermore, \$400 billion in savings is no doubt commendable, but it will not go far enough in eliminating record deficits and paying back our \$14 trillion debt.

The Spending Reduction Act would save \$2.5 trillion by rolling back discretionary spending to FY 2008 levels for 2011 and to FY 2006 levels for the rest of the 10-year budget window. Additionally, your legislation would implement a five-year pay freeze for civilian federal workers, rescind remaining funds from the so-called "stimulus," and tackle more than 100 specific program eliminations and spending reductions.

Although we applaud your efforts to begin the urgent task of curbing unsustainable spending, we remain hopeful that Congress will address defense expenditures as well. Despite the Secretary's recent announcement of budgetary pullbacks, military spending has grown substantially over the past several years. Unquestionably, the Department of Defense's fiscal practices, along with poor prioritization of projects, has led to little oversight and billions of wasted dollars. We can afford no sacred cows in the federal budget if Congress is to achieve real savings and help get our economy back on track.

Aside from our concerns surrounding the absence of defense spending, we endorse your legislation and hope to have the opportunity to work with you on additional measures that will ensure maximum savings and economic benefit.

Sincerely,

Jordan Forbes  
Federal Government Affairs Manager