

Waste Action Alert

*A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman*

Eliminate Taxpayer Subsidies to the Development Innovation Venture Program

April 13, 2011

Program or Item Targeted: The Development Innovation Venture within the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

One-Year Cost of Program or Item: \$30 million

Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted: The Development Innovation Venture (DIV) provides grants, up to \$6 million, to academic institutions, corporations, and foundations throughout the world to promote “development outcomes.” The DIV adds at least 10 new employees to the federal payroll and contributes more than \$30 million a year to the deficit. It duplicates the research and development work of the Energy Department, National Institutes of Health, and Defense Department.

Why This Program or Item Is Wasteful: Currently, DIV supports a variety of projects with questionable outcomes. These include a grant to develop the E-Bike, an “affordable fuel-cell powered bicycle.” The E-Bike technology already has a number of private sector investors, including large multinational corporations, and is viable on its own merits without government support. Other projects include a \$99,992 grant to study the effectiveness of using cell phones to monitor election results in foreign countries, and a \$173,000 grant to study the use of smartphone technology to combat absenteeism in healthcare in India.

MEMBER ACTION ITEM: Rep. Donald Manzullo is currently seeking original cosponsors for legislation that would prohibit USAID from spending taxpayer funds on the DIV. This legislation would also direct that all unspent funding be returned to the Treasury for deficit reduction. All RSC Members are encouraged to cosponsor this legislation. To cosponsor this legislation, or for more information, please contact Nien Su at Nien.Su@mail.house.gov.

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus please e-mail Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov.

Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

*“The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it,
working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn’t be paying for.”*