



Sunset Caucus

Waste Action Alert

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

Freeze the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 At FY2010 Appropriated Levels

May 5, 2010

Program or Item Targeted: The America Competes Reauthorization Act of 2010 is a five year reauthorization. The original authorization in 2007 was a three year authorization.

Cost of Program or Item: Amendments offered by Rep. Broun (R-GA) would have saved taxpayers at least \$45 billion.

Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted: The America Competes Reauthorization Act of 2010 created several new federal programs related to science, technology, math, and engineering education. Rep. Broun offered several amendments in the House Committee on Science and Technology to H.R. 5116, the America Competes Reauthorization Act of 2010. One of Rep. Broun's amendments would have only authorized spending for FY 2011 through FY 2013 at FY 2010 appropriation levels for the National Institute of Standards & Technology, National Science Foundation, the Dep't of Energy's Office of Science, and Advanced Research Projects Agency and would have struck authorization for FY2014 and FY2015. Another amendment would have struck the entire Title V of the bill, the "Innovation" section. This would have eliminated three new programs from the bill: The Manufacturing Loan Guarantee Program (authorized for \$250 million over five years), the Regional Innovation Clusters program (authorized at "such sums" as necessary), and the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (authorization levels are silent). The third amendment would have struck newly authorized programs from the bill.

Why This Program or Item Is Wasteful: According to the Congressional Budget Office, the President's budget proposes a deficit of \$1.5 trillion in 2010. The national debt is \$12.87 trillion. In these difficult economic times, the fiscally responsible thing to do is to keep the reauthorization at the 2010 appropriated level and remove new and duplicative programs.

Legislative Steps Taken So Far: Rep. Broun offered three amendments to H.R. 5116, the America Competes Reauthorization Act, in the House Science and Technology Committee. Each amendment was rejected.

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

If you have a bill or amendment to highlight in the next Waste Action Alert please contact Kimberly.Ellis@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."*

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