



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

### Eliminate the U.S. Trade and Development Agency

July 21, 2010

**Program or Item Targeted:** The U.S. Trade and Development Agency

**One-Year Cost of Program or Item:** \$55.2 million in FY 2010 and \$56.2 million in FY 2011

**Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted:** The U.S. Trade and Development Agency has a dual mission of advancing internal economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The Agency funds technical assistance and feasibility studies that support the development of modern infrastructures in economic sectors such as transportation, clean energy and climate change, and telecommunications and assists in the promotion of U.S. exports. The Agency also provides training for foreign policymakers in economic sectors of interest to U.S. exporters. The Agency has declared its FY 2011 priority areas are promoting clean energy development, broadening economic engagement with Muslim-majority countries, and advancing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in Africa.

**Why This Program or Item Is Wasteful:** The U.S. Trade and Development Agency has reported that of its 1,170 projects between 1997 and 2006, only 36.2% were actually successful in creating additional exports for American companies. The Agency's activities also overlap with multiple other government agencies and programs. The Agency is joined by the Department of Commerce, the Department of Agriculture, the Export-Import Bank, and sixteen other agencies on the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee to promote American exports. The Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the Millennium Challenge Corporation also share the Agency's mission to assist developing countries. The U.S. Trade and Development Agency is one of a cornucopia of agencies devoted to advancing identical goals. Congress should not appropriate taxpayer funds in the current fiscal environment for activities that are redundant and would be more properly conducted by the private sector.

**MEMBER ACTION ITEM:** Representative Ed Royce (CA-40) introduced H.R. 5547, which would terminate the U.S. Trade and Development Agency. Members are encouraged to contact Darrin Schrader at 5-4111 or [Darrin.Schrader@mail.house.gov](mailto:Darrin.Schrader@mail.house.gov), to cosponsor or for more information.

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail [Brad.Watson@mail.house.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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."*

**RSC**   
Republican Study Committee