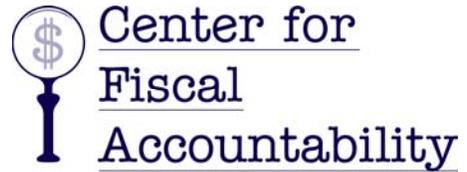




AMERICANS
for TAX REFORM



Center for
Fiscal
Accountability

May 26, 2011

The Honorable Jack Kingston
2372 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kingston,

We write to encourage your colleagues to co-sponsor and otherwise support your Returning to Responsible Fiscal Policies Act, a bill that would limit total federal spending to 18 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2016.

A sustainable fiscal environment can never be achieved if the government continues to spend beyond its means. Historically, Washington's spending levels have consumed about 21 percent of GDP, while tax revenues have leveled out at 18 percent. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that on its current path, spending will far outpace revenues, averaging 23 percent for the next decade.

The Returning to Responsible Fiscal Policies Act limits the spending habits of profligate lawmakers by cutting spending by a small percentage of GDP each year. This glide brings spending to 18 percent of GDP by FY2016, in line with historical revenue levels.

The bill also provides strong enforcement mechanisms to keep spending in check. Should Congress exceed the prescribed level of spending for the year, the Office of Management and Budget will make across-the-board cuts. Lawmakers will thus be motivated to tailor spending to stay under the limit, rather than subject accounts to indiscriminate sequestration at the end of the year.

The bill also addresses the abuse of emergency designations to circumvent current spending restraints. The Returning to Responsible Fiscal Policies Act requires a two thirds vote in both chambers in order to waive the 18 percent spending cap.

Our nation's fiscal outlook is in need of serious reform and the Returning to Responsible Fiscal Policies Act would help accomplish this important task. Thus, we encourage your colleagues to support your Returning to Responsible Fiscal Policies Act and look forward to working with you to reign in out of control government spending.

Sincerely,

Grover Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

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