



Thomas A. Schatz  
*President*

June 2, 2011

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

Rep. Jack Kingston (R-Ga.) recently introduced H.R. 2041, the Returning to Responsible Fiscal Policies Act. On behalf of the more than one million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I urge you to support this legislation.

On May 16, taxpayers faced the fallout from Congress' irresponsible spending policies when the nation finally hit its statutory \$14.294 trillion debt limit. Federal outlays, which have historically been 20.3 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), are projected to balloon to 26.4 percent of GDP by 2021. By contrast, recession-depleted tax revenues are scheduled to rebound to their historical average of 18 percent by 2018 and reach 18.4 percent by 2021. Clearly, runaway spending, not inadequate tax revenues, is the driving force behind the nation's colossal debt.

Rep. Kingston's bill balances the budget in just five years through reducing and permanently capping federal spending at 18 percent of GDP, the historical average of federal tax revenues. If Congress has not met the pre-determined cap by 45 days into a particular fiscal year, a sequestration provision of the legislation reduces spending with or without congressional action by requiring the Office of Management and Budget to make evenly distributed cuts throughout the federal budget that bring spending down to the prescribed level. The bill only exempts clearly defined emergency spending and interest payments on the national debt. A two-thirds majority of both houses of Congress would be required to exceed the 18 percent spending cap.

Congress has a moral and fiscal duty to Americans that it has simply been shirking. The federal government will not be able to achieve fiscal solvency if it continues to spend more than it takes in. I strongly urge you to support the Returning Responsible Fiscal Policies Act and safeguard future taxpayers by forcing Congress to align outlays with historical revenues. All votes on H.R. 2041 will be among those considered in CCAGW's *2011 Congressional Ratings*.

Sincerely,