



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

GROVER G. NORQUIST

PRESIDENT

Taxpayer Group WILL RATE a Vote FOR HR 4890, “Legislative Line Item Veto Act”

Federal government spending has grown rapidly in the past five years. From 2001 to 2005, spending increased from \$1.86 trillion to \$2.48 trillion—a 33 percent increase—and federal outlays rose from 18.5 percent of GDP to 20.3 percent. As a result, the average American needed to work 85 days in 2005 to pay for federal spending—an increase of nearly seven days since 2000.

This surge in federal spending has resulted from several causes, one of which is the frequent insertion of wasteful earmarks in large appropriations bills. In fact, estimates suggest 10,000 pork-barrel projects were inserted into appropriations bills during Fiscal Year 2006 at a total cost of more than \$29 billion. Between 1991 and 2005, the federal government spent about \$241 billion (nearly three-fourths of the budget deficit in Fiscal Year 2005) on these unnecessary projects. To combat this type of excessive spending, the House of Representatives has introduced a resolution, H.R. 4890, to give the President line-item veto power.

Passage of H.R. 4890 will enable the President to cut this unneeded pork-barrel spending while still signing the bill to which these projects are frequently attached. **With a line-item veto, Congress and the President will no longer have to choose between preventing pork projects and providing needed funds for U.S. troops, homeland security, or education.** H.R. 4890, if passed, will foster a partnership between the executive and the legislative branches dedicated to reducing excessive spending and increasing transparency and accountability for the budget process.

The Line-Item Veto Act is an essential tool in the fight against government waste and is necessary to encourage efficient federal spending of taxpayers’ dollars. We therefore urge you to support this legislation as a vital first-step toward combating large federal spending.

ATR reserves the right to score any vote associated with HR 5499, including but not limited to procedural motions, amendments, and final passage.

ATR WILL RATE A VOTE ON THIS BILL