

As budget negotiations are beginning in Washington, I wanted to inform you about a bipartisan proposal to reduce wasteful spending that passed the House this week. One of the major factors contributing to the culture of over-spending in Washington is the practice of tucking wasteful spending on pork projects or legislators' pet causes into broad funding bills, giving members of Congress the choice between approving this wasteful spending or shutting down major portions of the government. In many states, including California, the governor has the authority to issue a "line-item veto," rejecting certain spending items in a bill while approving the rest. However, the Supreme Court has ruled that the Constitution does not permit Congress to delegate a line-item veto power to the President.

The Expedited Legislative Line-Item Veto and Rescissions Act, [H.R. 3521](#), would instead allow the President to pick spending provisions he opposes in legislation and require Congress to have an up or down vote on just those provisions within 45 days. The budget game in Washington has long been stacked against advocates of spending restraint, and this modified line-item veto will help change that. With over \$15 trillion in national debt, the taxpayers deserve to know that their money is being spent efficiently, and this tool is an important part of reining in the federal budget. I hope the Senate passes it without delay.