

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2643

To provide for a review of efforts to reduce Federal agency travel expenses through the use of video conferencing and a plan to achieve additional reductions in such expenses through the use of video conferencing, to implement such plan through rescissions of appropriations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2013

Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Mr. BARROW of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. WELCH, Mr. COFFMAN, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, Mr. MATHESON, and Mr. GRIFFIN of Arkansas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide for a review of efforts to reduce Federal agency travel expenses through the use of video conferencing and a plan to achieve additional reductions in such expenses through the use of video conferencing, to implement such plan through rescissions of appropriations, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Stay in Place, Cut
3 the Waste Act of 2013”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The Federal Government spends billions of
7 dollars per year on travel to conferences, training
8 programs, business meetings, court and administra-
9 tive hearings, and other related activities.

10 (2) On November 9, 2011, President Barack
11 Obama issued Executive Order 13589 (76 Fed. Reg.
12 70863; relating to promoting efficient spending).
13 Section 2 of such Executive order directs the head
14 of each executive department or agency to establish
15 a plan for fiscal year 2013 to reduce the combined
16 expenses associated with a variety of activities, in-
17 cluding travel, by not less than 20 percent below fis-
18 cal year 2010 levels.

19 (3) Section 3 of Executive Order 13589 ad-
20 dresses travel spending and provides, in part, for the
21 use of video conferencing.

22 (4) In May 2012, the Director of the Office of
23 Management and Budget instructed the heads of ex-
24 ecutive departments and agencies to reduce their
25 travel budgets in fiscal year 2013 to 30 percent
26 below fiscal year 2010 levels.

1 (5) While the Administration has made efforts
2 to utilize video conferencing and reduce travel ex-
3 penses, such practices are still a largely untapped
4 means of saving taxpayer dollars.

5 (6) The Telework Enhancement Act of 2010
6 (Public Law 111–292) requires the head of each ex-
7 ecutive agency to establish a policy under which eli-
8 gible employees of such agency may be authorized to
9 telework.

10 (7) The video conferencing industry has shifted
11 from a hardware-based model to a browser-based
12 model, leading to reduced expenses and increased ef-
13 ficiency in a system that is able to meet the needs
14 in daily commerce for full-featured conferencing
15 using off-the-shelf equipment present in most every
16 Government office, business, and home.

17 (8) Video conferencing can be used by Federal
18 employees instead of or in addition to telephones and
19 email to enhance communication and problem solv-
20 ing, to reduce associated carbon footprints, to facili-
21 tate staff training and interagency meetings, and to
22 increase employee productivity, thereby helping
23 shorten project timelines, promote efficiency, im-
24 prove collaboration among coworkers across the
25 country, and improve work-life balance.

1 **SEC. 3. REVIEW, PLAN, AND REPORT ON USING VIDEO CON-**
2 **FERENCING TO REDUCE FEDERAL AGENCY**
3 **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**

4 (a) REVIEW.—The Director shall review the extent
5 to which Federal agencies have reduced travel expenses
6 by the use of video conferencing pursuant to Executive
7 Order 13589 (76 Fed. Reg. 70863; relating to promoting
8 efficient spending) and OMB Memorandum 12–12–12.

9 (b) PLAN.—The Director shall develop a plan for fis-
10 cal years beginning with fiscal year 2017 to use video con-
11 ferencing to achieve the lesser of—

12 (1) a 50 percent reduction in Federal agency
13 travel expenses below fiscal year 2013 levels; or

14 (2) the greatest reduction in such expenses the
15 Director considers feasible.

16 (c) REPORT.—Not later than six months after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall sub-
18 mit to the Committee on Oversight and Government Re-
19 form of the House of Representatives and the Committee
20 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
21 Senate a report on the review required by subsection (a)
22 and the plan required by subsection (b).

23 **SEC. 4. IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN.**

24 Of the amounts made available to Federal agencies
25 to fund travel expenses for fiscal years beginning with fis-
26 cal year 2017, the Director shall rescind the amounts that

1 are proposed for reduction by the plan developed under
2 section 3(b).

3 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) **DIRECTOR.**—The term “Director” means
6 the Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
7 et.

8 (2) **FEDERAL AGENCY.**—The term “Federal
9 agency” means any agency listed in section 901(b)
10 of title 31, United States Code.

11 (3) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—The term “travel ex-
12 penses” means the total amount a Federal agency
13 pays or reimburses under subchapter I or sub-
14 chapter II of chapter 57 of title 5, United States
15 Code.

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