

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL ENTITLED “LEGISLATIVE
LINE ITEM VETO ACT OF 2006”

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL TO GIVE THE PRESIDENT LINE ITEM
AUTHORITY TO REDUCE WASTEFUL SPENDING ENTITLED “LEG-
ISLATIVE LINE ITEM VETO ACT OF 2006”



MARCH 18, 2006.—Message and accompanying papers referred to the
Committees on the Budget and Rules, and ordered to be printed

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To the Congress of the United States:

In my State of the Union Address, I asked the Congress to give the President a line item veto. Today, I am sending the Congress a legislative proposal to give the President line item authority to reduce wasteful spending. This legislation will help to limit spending and ensure accountability and transparency in the expenditure of taxpayer funds.

Although the Congress achieved significant spending restraint this past year, appropriations and other bills that are sent to my desk still contain spending that is not fully justified, is a low priority, or is earmarked to avoid the discipline of competitive or merit-based reviews. When this legislation is presented to me, I now have no ability to line out unnecessary spending. In 1996, the Congress gave the President a line item veto—an important tool to limit wasteful spending—but the Supreme Court struck down that version of the law in 1998.

My proposed legislation, the “Legislative Line Item Veto Act of 2006,” would provide a fast-track procedure to require the Congress to vote up-or-down on rescissions proposed by the President. There has been broad bipartisan support for similar proposals in the past. Under this proposal, the President could propose legislation to rescind wasteful spending, and the Congress would be obligated to vote quickly on that package of rescissions, without amendment. The same procedure would apply to new mandatory spending and to special interest tax breaks given to small numbers of individuals.

Forty-three Governors have a line item veto to reduce spending. The President needs similar authority to help control unjustified and wasteful spending in the Federal budget. I urge you to promptly consider and send me this legislation for enactment to reduce unnecessary spending and help achieve my goal of cutting the deficit in half by 2009.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *March 6, 2006.*

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