

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, March 17, 1995

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LINE ITEM VETO

LEGISLATION HAS OVERWHELMING BACKING OF REPUBLICAN SENATORS; **DOLE TELLS PRESIDENT NOW IS TIME TO ACT & LET HIS SUPPORT** **BE KNOWN TO AMERICAN PEOPLE**

On Monday, the Senate will move to consideration of the line-item veto. Senators McCain, Domenici, Coats, and Lott have devoted a great deal of time and effort to writing the legislation which we will be debating, and are to be congratulated on the final result.

As with the Balanced Budget Amendment, the line item veto has the overwhelming support of the American people, and it will receive the overwhelming support of Republican senators.

I know, however, that this legislation is opposed by many of my Democrat colleagues, and I know that many will do all they can within the rules--as is their right--to block its passage.

The line-item veto, however, did receive wide bi-partisan support in the House, where it passed by a vote of 294-134. It has also been voted on several occasions over the past years, and a vote to invoke cloture received the support of many Democrat senators including, Senator Biden, Senator Exon, Senator Heflin, Senator Hollings, Senator Kennedy, Senator Leahy, Senator Nunn, and Senator Pell.

The bottom line is that here in the Senate, a vote will be taken, and the American people will know where we stand. That is how the process works.

But will they know where President Clinton stands?

For a long time, it was hard to tell where he stood on the Balanced Budget Amendment. In wasn't until the final weeks of the debate that he finally did what he could to defeat the amendment, although he continued to say he understood why Americans so strongly supported it.

As a Governor and a candidate for President, he said on countless occasions that he supported the line-item veto. But lately, the President seems intent on opposing anything that comes out of the Republican Congress.

I'm concerned that if given the choice between passing something he has always supported, or denying Republicans a legislative victory, then the line item veto will be sacrificed.

If the President truly supports the line-item veto, now is the time to let the American people know. And now is the time to let Democrat senators know that he will not support efforts to unnecessarily delay a final vote.

We are all familiar with the issue. We have debated and discussed it before. Hearings have been held by both the Budget Committee and the Governmental Affairs Committee. Now is the time to act, and now is the time for President Clinton to finally match his deeds with his words.

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