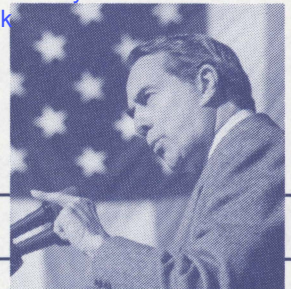


Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LINE ITEM VETO

STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

I am proud that today the Senate is passing the conference report on the Line Item Veto Act of 1996. Giving line item veto authority to the president is a promise we made to the American people in the Contract With America, and it is a promise we are following through on today.

Line item veto seems to be the one thing that all modern presidents agree on. All of our recent presidents have called for the line item veto -- both Democrat and Republican presidents alike. And for good reason. The president, regardless of party, should be able to eliminate unnecessary pork-barrel projects from large appropriations bills.

Most of our nation's governors have the line item veto. Some states have had line item veto since the civil war. There's a lot of experience out there in the states that shows us this is a good idea. 43 Governors have the line item veto, and now -- finally -- the president will, too.

President Clinton and I have talked about the Line Item Veto Act. He wants the line item veto and we both think it is a good idea.

Certainly, line item veto is not a cure-all for budget deficits. No one is pretending it is the one big answer to all of our budget problems.

But it is one additional tool a president can use to help keep unnecessary spending down. It's one way for us to fulfill our pledge to American taxpayers for less Washington spending.

Line item veto has a lot of support in the Senate. We passed our version of the bill in the Senate just about a year ago on March 17, 1995 with the support of 69 senators.

But I know some are worried that it shifts the balance of power away from Congress and to the president. Well, appropriations bills that go on for hundreds of pages have already altered the dynamic between the president and Congress from what it was 200 years ago.

Even so, for those who aren't so sure line item veto is the right approach, this bill has a sunset in it. We'll try this experiment for a few years and see if it works. I'm confident it will. It's an idea whose time has come.

I want to thank Senators Stevens, Domenici, McCain and Coats for their work on this bill. It is thanks to them that we are about to pass this important and historic legislation.

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