

What They're Saying ...

More Support For The Line-Item Veto Legislation

"[W]e're urging Congress to give this President and future Presidents the opportunity to be able to have what is very much similar to a line-item veto. ... I appreciate the support of both Republicans and Democrats on the Hill in supporting the bill that we've submitted. I urge the Congress to pass this type of legislation so that we can work together to get our deficit cut in half by 2009, but, more importantly, assure the American people that we're being wise about how we use their money."

– President Bush, 6/8/06

Governors Join The Call For Enacting A Line-Item Veto

- **Gov. Matt Blunt (R-MO):** "Americans hold their president accountable for federal spending and responsible stewardship of tax dollars. ... He needs the appropriate tools to control spending. Because of this I support President Bush's efforts to secure line item veto authority and urge the Congress to respond to his request. The line item veto has been very useful to me as governor to help ensure that Missouri government lives within the taxpayers' means." (Gov. Matt Blunt, "Blunt Meets With President Bush At White House; Supports His Request For Line Item Veto Authority," Press Release, 6/8/06)
- **Governor Bob Riley (R-AL):** "The President needs the line-item veto. It will shine the light of accountability on items in the budget and help cut unnecessary spending. ... When I came into office in 2003, Alabama faced a record budget deficit. We prioritized spending, banned pass-through pork and eliminated more than \$500 million in line-item spending from our budgets. ... Congress should do like we did: prioritize spending and cut spending. Giving the President the line-item veto is one of the very best tools to accomplish both." (Gov. Bob Riley, "President Bush Invites Governor Riley To White House," Press Release, 6/7/06)
- **Gov. Bill Owens (R-CO):** "A line-item veto would give a president freedom, Owens said, to strike objectionable appropriations without killing necessary legislation. 'Why does he want a line-item when he gets a veto? It's really hard to veto the total bill, but it's easy to veto parts of it,' said Owens." (John Aloysius Farrell, "Owens, Governors, Meet With Bush," *The Denver Post*, 6/8/06)
- **Gov. Sonny Perdue (R-GA):** "Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue joined a bipartisan group of governors at the White House today to highlight to President Bush how the line item veto power has helped state leaders show fiscal discipline. 'Our states have used it in the right way, not in a punitive way, but in a fiscally responsible way,' said Gov. Perdue." (Edward Lee Pitts, "Georgia's Perdue, Other Governors Meet With Bush," *The Chattanooga [TN] Times Free Press*, 6/8/06)
- **Governor Jeb Bush (R-FL):** "Florida's governor said he has used the provision to 'bring fiscal responsibility to the state budget' – trimming \$2.1 billion over the last eight years. 'I think the president needs to have this as well,' Jeb Bush said. 'I'm going to work with the fourth-largest congressional delegation and urge them to support this.'" (Lesley Clark, "Gov. Backs President's Line-Item Veto Push," *The Miami Herald*, 6/8/06)

###