



Thomas A. Schatz
President

March 27, 2001

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the one million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I would like to express my strong support of the FY 2002 budget resolution.

On the one hand, Washington has the largest surplus in history – \$5.6 trillion over the next ten years. On the other hand, the tax burden on the American people has not been higher since World War II. And with both hands, Washington has proven eager to spend all of this money, and more. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the federal government is projected to spend \$2.2 trillion more than the 1997 balanced budget agreement called for in the next ten years. Of that total, \$561 billion was added last year.

The budget resolution's 3.5 percent increase in discretionary spending is a good first step in bringing fiscal responsibility to Washington. Since the rate is roughly the same as inflation, it is a reasonable limit. This is a clear improvement over the 7.4 percent average non-defense discretionary spending increase since 1998. Since every cent of money in the Treasury belongs to the taxpayers that earned it, returning some of the overpayment to them not only good economic policy, it is simply the right thing to do.

The budget is the first crucial step in implementing the president's plan to provide relief to every family that pays taxes, removing 1 out of 5 taxpaying families with children from the tax rolls and taking six million taxpaying families with children off the tax rolls completely. This reduced tax burden will increase the incentives to work, save, and invest, thereby increasing economic growth and rewarding productive behavior. Making relief retroactive is critical to provide the necessary stimulus to our faltering economy.

This budget sends a simple and powerful message about the tax overpayments: Return to Sender. Those opposed to allowing the taxpayers to keep more of what they earn also send a strong message: Retain by Spender. CCAGW strongly endorses the FY 2002 budget as passed by the House Committee on the Budget. Votes on the bill be among those considered for CCAGW's annual Congressional Ratings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Schatz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.