



NEWS

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POWERFUL AND ODD BEDFELLOWS UNITE TO ELIMINATE CORPORATE WELFARE

Right and Left Agree: "These Items Must Go!"

(Washington, D.C.) – A broad range of taxpayer, consumer, free market, and environmental groups today announced the formation of a coalition to fight corporate welfare and released a list of wasteful federal spending items they will target for elimination during the 105th Congress.

The Stop Corporate Welfare (SCW) Coalition is an unusual and effective union of groups from diverse points on the political spectrum which plan to mount an ongoing effort to reform government spending. The coalition came together last year to block efforts in Congress to double the appropriation for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC). The success of that endeavor prompted the group to formalize the association in order to engage in an even more aggressive campaign to eliminate these types of wasteful corporate handouts.

The SCW Coalition reviewed virtually all federal spending programs (except entitlement spending) before agreeing on a specific list of initial targets. The items on the coalition hit list cover a wide array of federal programs, from subsidized energy research to risky overseas investment to commercial research - all done at taxpayer's expense, very often for companies which can well afford to pay for it themselves. The twelve items on the SCW list are: The Rural Utilities Service; the USDA's Market Access program and timber roads in national forests; the Animas La Plata water project; the Department of Energy's Pyroprocessing, Fossil Energy Research and Development, and Clean Coal Technology programs; the Appalachian Regional Commission's roads program; OPIC; the International Monetary Fund's General Agreement to Borrow and Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility; and highway demonstration programs.

The SCW Coalition is pleased to count U.S. Rep. John Kasich (R-Ohio) among its supporters on Capitol Hill. Coalition members will continue to reach out to members of Congress to build support for elimination of wasteful corporate welfare programs. The SCW coalition members and their spokespersons are:

Citizens Against Government Waste	Tom Schatz	(202) 467-5300
U.S. Public Interest Research Group	Anna Aurilio	(202) 546-9707
Americans for Tax Reform	Grover Norquist	(202) 785-0266
Public Citizen	Joan Claybrook	(202) 588-1000
National Taxpayers Union	David Keating	(703) 683-5700
Friends of the Earth	Courtney Cuff	(202) 783-7400
Citizens for A Sound Economy	Shane Schrieffer	(202) 783-3870
Taxpayers For Common Sense	Jill Lancelot	(202) 546-8500
Competitive Enterprise Institute	Fred Smith	(202) 331-1010

Spokespersons for groups within the coalition may be contacted individually for interviews or to receive additional information.