



## Coalition to Congress: Reform Agency Grant Processes

March 28, 2014

Dear Representatives:

On behalf of the millions of Americans represented by the undersigned organizations, we write to urge you to support the Grant Reform and New Transparency (GRANT) Act, H.R. 3316, sponsored by Representative Lankford. This legislation would reduce favoritism in awarding federal grants and add much-needed safeguards for taxpayers.

Washington is spending more and more. The last three budgets approved by Congress have been the largest in history. One area of particular growth among this rapid increase in overall spending has been agency grants. The federal government spent \$600 billion on grants in 2012, up from \$135 billion in 1990.

Americans deserve to have their hard earned tax dollars spent responsibly, not squandered on unviable and frivolous projects. Grant proposals should be fully documented and carefully scrutinized to ensure that the project is viable and appropriate. Agency grants should be awarded in an open, competitive system based on merit, not on their political connections.

The ban on Congressional earmarks was a good first step in curbing spending on wasteful and expensive projects. But that ban has been succeeded by an executive branch driven process that is equally, and in some cases even more opaque. While we are pleased that the earmark ban has removed some of the political motives long associated with spending on individual projects, the way in which these project dollars are awarded continues to lack transparency, making it difficult for ordinary Americans to ascertain how these decisions are made.

The GRANT Act (H.R. 3316) will establish new standards that will improve accountability in the federal agency award process. It will improve documentation, such as requiring greater detail in grant applications, as well as final reports on project performance. Moreover, the measure will require executive branch agencies to establish clear standards for grants, and expand disclosure requirements regarding how final award decisions are made. This legislation will also increase transparency in grant reporting, which will make it easier for Americans to see where their hard-earned tax dollars are going.





Sincerely,

Brent Gardner, Director of Federal Affairs  
Americans for Prosperity

Dee Stewart, President  
Americans for a Balanced Budget

Grover Norquist, President  
Americans for Tax Reform

Mattie Duppler, Executive Director  
Cost of Government Center

Tom Brinkman Jr., Chairman  
Coalition Opposed to Additional Spending and Taxes

Governor Gary Johnson, Honorary Chairman  
Our America Initiative

George Landrith, President  
Frontiers of Freedom

Carrie Lukas, Vice President of Policy  
Independent Women's Voice

Seton Motley, President  
Less Government

Amy Ridenour, Chairman  
National Center for Public Policy Research

Andrew Moylan, Outreach Director and Senior Fellow  
R Street Institute

Steve Ellis, Vice President  
Taxpayers for Common Sense

David Williams, President  
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Morton Blackwell, Chairman  
The Weyrich Lunch

Penny Young Nance, CEO and President  
Concerned Women for America

Lew Uhler, President  
National Tax-Limitation Committee