



News from
U.S. Congressman

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Gutknecht marks ‘Cost of Government Day’

Washington, DC – First District Congressman Gil Gutknecht today joined several colleagues, American for Tax Reform and Citizens Against Government Waste in marking ‘Cost of Government Day.’ ‘Cost of Government Day’ is the date of the calendar year on which the average American worker has earned enough gross income to pay off his or her share of spending and regulatory burdens imposed by all levels of government. Minnesota families have to work approximately 190 days just to pay the share of local, state and federal government.

“While we have done the right thing by passing a number of tax relief measures to help American families, we have not done enough to control spending,” Gutknecht said. “The good news is that the economy, having created more than 1.5 million jobs this year, is rolling along. Now it’s time for Congress to build on this momentum by slowing the growth of the federal government.”

According to Americans for Tax Reform, days worked to pay for federal spending has increased for each of the past four years. That’s why Gutknecht pushed his colleagues for a vote on budget enforcement. Gutknecht has long advocated for Congress to re-enact discretionary spending caps and pay-as-you-go mechanisms into the federal budget.

“The importance of caps and PAYGO is not lost on people like Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan. The fact is, working people are spending more than half the year to pay for government. I’m not sure they’re getting a fair return on this sweat equity,” Gutknecht concluded.

Gutknecht is the chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Department Operations, Oversight, Nutrition and Forestry; vice chairman of the House Science Committee; and member of the House Budget Committee.