



Office of the Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
March 25, 2004

Dear Congressman Gutknecht,:

Thank you for your service as a member of the Budget Committee, and especially your leadership in the area of budget enforcement and budget process reform.

Beginning at this year's Republican retreat in Philadelphia, the Members of our conference made it clear that they believe it is important for the House to focus on reforms to the federal budget process. Since that time, Leadership has expressed its desire to consider legislation that, among other things, reinstates the statutory "pay-as-you-go" system and spending caps.

Just last week, the House Budget Committee reported a bill that would accomplish this goal. In addition to this important reform, the Rules Committee is currently debating a variety of other changes to the federal budget process. After discussions with the Majority Leader, I can commit to you that legislation addressing these important issues will be considered in the House prior to the Memorial Day recess.

I look forward to working with you closely as we move forward on budget process reform and I hope you will continue to be a leader in the House on this important issue.

Sincere Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Dennis Hastert".

J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives