

June 30, 2003

Dear Friend,

Before Congress left Washington at the end of June to begin the July 4th District Work Period, we had two important votes on the Federal Budget. In a rare victory for American taxpayers, Congress overwhelmingly rejected H.R. 3973, the Spending Control Act by a vote of 146 to 268. This bill simply was the majority's attempt to distract attention from the sad fact that Congress has failed to enact a budget for the next fiscal year – the deadline for which passed in April. The bipartisan "Pay-As-You-Go" rules adopted in 1990 required both spending increases AND tax cuts to be "paid for" by corresponding spending reductions or revenue increases. Thankfully, a bipartisan majority rejected this bill because it failed to control spending in any way, and actually would have continued to pass on unprecedented debt to our children and grandchildren. Please click [here](#) for more information about this effort to restore fiscal discipline to our federal budget process.

In another cynical move, the majority covertly tried to exploit the must-pass Defense Appropriations bill by including provisions to increase of federal debt limit in the Rule governing debate on the defense measure. Some estimate this backdoor legislative action could increase the debt by up to \$700 billion. It was appalling that although the majority will not allow a simple up or down vote on this issue, they manipulated a bipartisan process that included a pay raise for our brave troops. Please click [here](#) for more information on this legislative slight-of-hand.

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter. I hope you have found the information useful. Please watch your inbox for future updates.

Very truly yours,

Tom Udall