

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Tom Rooney (FL-16) issued the following statement after Democrats voted down the latest [YouCut](#) winner, a proposal to save taxpayers \$35 billion by reducing non-security federal employment to 2008 levels.

“Federal spending is out of control. While American families and small businesses are tightening their belts and making tough decisions to make ends meet, the federal government is ballooning. This Congress is racking up massive debts to grow the size and scope of the federal government, while the private sector has lost millions of jobs,” Rooney said.

“Today, Congress had an opportunity to stop federal spending from crowding out private sector job growth, and take a strong first step toward addressing the deficit. Unfortunately, Democrats blocked this responsible measure to freeze federal employment at pre-stimulus, pre-bailout levels.

“Over the last few months, 1.9 million Americans have cast votes through the [YouCut](#) program, and Republicans have now proposed more than \$155 billion in spending cuts. Making these cuts would have gone a long way toward bringing down our deficits and changing the culture of spending in Washington. I am deeply disappointed that the Majority continues to support an explosion of federal spending and refuses to join responsible efforts to save taxpayer money.”

Republicans have made reining in wasteful spending a critical component of their [Pledge to America](#), which includes a plan to hold weekly votes to cut spending. The [Pledge](#) also includes a net hiring freeze on non-security federal employees.

Description Of This Week’s Winning Proposal: Reduce Government Employment to 2008 Levels

Saves Taxpayers \$35 Billion Over Ten Years: The federal government has added approximately 188,000 new employees (excluding temporary census workers) since 2008. Implementing a policy whereby the government only hires one person for every two who leave civilian government service until the workforce is reduced to pre-Obama levels would result in significant savings for taxpayers. Under this proposal the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security, and Veterans Affairs are exempt from this requirement, and the President is provided flexibility to distribute newly hired employees by need.

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