

Congressman Kevin Brady, of The Woodlands, proposes cutting 200,000 federal jobs over 10 years, other savings

Wednesday, Jan 12, 2011, 11:00AM CST [0 comments](#) [Add comment](#)

By Mark Lisher



Atta boy, Kevin Brady. With elected representatives nearly passed out from the sighing, huffing and hyperventilating over budget deficits in capitals everywhere, the U.S. representative from Texas composed himself, stepped forward and delivered a plan.

Brady, R-The Woodlands, made it simple. Cut 200,000 federal jobs over the next 10 years, freeze the pay of all federal workers for the next three years and save an estimated \$150 billion in federal spending over the next five years, [according to the Washington Post](#).

Brady is calling his bill the Cut Unsustainable and Top-heavy Spending (CUTS) Act and while [Texas Watchdog](#) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) have recently commented on acronym abuse among the political class, we applaud anyone

from among that class who has a tangible answer to the question, "What are we going to do now?"

The answer from Brady, whose clout comes from chairmanship of the Joint Economic Committee and a senior spot on the House Ways and Means Committee, is to replace every three workers who leave their federal jobs with two new workers for the next 10 years. The attrition plan and additional cuts will not spare the Pentagon, according to Brady's plan.

The bill also calls for the White House and all Congressional offices to cut their budgets by 15 percent and cut vehicle and printing costs for a total savings of an additional \$7.3 billion over the next five years.

Predictably, federal employees union officials said the bill would leave government and, thus, the American people, hopelessly understaffed and underserved. Equally predictably, an economist with the libertarian Cato Institute in Washington said the bill doesn't go nearly far enough, failing to address business subsidies, Medicare and Medicaid.

If the alternative is to do nothing, we wonder how much taxpayers could reap in federal and state energy savings over the next decade by harnessing the static electricity generated by the hand-wringing of politicians.



BRADY

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