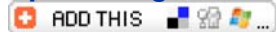




Spending freeze tags Obama a 'deficit peacock'



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A budget analyst says even though President Obama will propose a freeze on some government spending in his State of the Union speech tonight, the president is no deficit hawk, but rather a "deficit peacock."

President Obama is proposing a "spending freeze" for part of the budget known as "non-defense discretionary" spending. However, according to *The Wall Street Journal*, the proposal applies to only 17 percent of the federal budget. The freeze does not affect the military, veterans, homeland security and international affairs, or entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare. It would affect \$447 billion in spending and is designed to save \$250 billion over the coming decade.



Tad DeHaven, a budget analyst at the [Cato Institute](#), says the president's proposed freeze is "just a drop in the bucket" because he is not even talking about a total discretionary spending freeze.

"Ironically last week the Democrat-friendly Center for American Progress put out an essay on what it calls 'deficit peacocks' -- and to the Center for American Progress, deficit peacocks are those who really aren't serious about reducing deficits," DeHaven explains. "One of their telltale signs is when someone proposes a freezing of discretionary spending; and so by the left's own essay, I guess that would make President Obama a deficit peacock."

The budget analyst notes that President Obama signed into a law a 4-percent increase in discretionary spending and an 8.7-percent increase in non-discretionary spending last year. DeHaven suggests that means when Obama proposes a spending freeze, it is "like a going on a drinking binge and then when you get up the next day, declaring that you're sober."



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