



July 19, 2006

Dear Representative:

The National Treasury Employees Union (NTEU) urges you to vote "NO" on HR 5766 and HR 3282, which we understand will be considered by the Government Reform Committee tomorrow. These bills would establish sunset commissions to review federal agencies and programs, including entitlement programs, to determine whether they should be terminated or changed.

NTEU has found these bills to be unsatisfactory for many reasons. First of all, they cause an unprecedented transfer of power from the Legislative branch to the Executive branch. Congress would, in essence, surrender its oversight duty and turn over decisions about the function and structure of the federal government to an unelected commission which could conduct its deliberations without openness or accountability.

Efficiency in government and the elimination of waste are laudable goals. Federal employees have often been able to contribute to the advancement of these goals and we are proud to do so. The Executive Branch also has wide authority in existing law to eliminate inefficiency and waste. But these bills take the wrong approach. They open the door to eliminating programs and agencies based on philosophical opposition to their mission rather than their failure to perform their mission. We believe there are other ways to approach this matter. We would respectfully suggest that the Committee not rush to the floor these unwise bills and instead explore authentic means to promote better government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen M. Kelley', is written in a cursive style.

Colleen M. Kelley  
National President