

U.S. Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (MO-08), who chairs the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, today won approval in the subcommittee for the fiscal year 2013 version of the bill. Emerson's legislation cuts \$2 billion from the President's budget for the General Services Administration, the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Treasury and the Executive Office of the President.

"The job of Congress is to carefully select priorities on behalf of the people we represent. Not only are these important times to control the size, reach and expense of the federal bureaucracy, but it also means we have to be clear about the mandate for these agencies to do more with less rather than doing less with more," Emerson said. "There is plenty of fat to trim, operational efficiencies which ought to be adopted, and room for improvement in all of these areas of government. This bill represents a firm commitment to the financial health of our country."

The Emerson bill represents a cut of 12.6 percent from fiscal year 2010 levels of spending.

"At the same time, my legislation makes a point of continuing support for drug task forces, programs to fight terrorism and terrorist financing, and the Small Business Administration," Emerson said. "These are areas in which we are keeping the American people safe and providing essential access to business capital that creates jobs to grow our economy."

Emerson reserved special criticism in her bill for GSA, which spent nearly \$1 million on a Las Vegas Conference for the Western Regions of the agency and awarded ten-thousand-dollar bonuses to the GSA employees involved in planning and approving the conference.

"GSA sustains significant cuts in this legislation, and they have earned every penny of the cut they received. I have also re-shaped their accounts to provide new transparency in the way they are funded. The Subcommittee learned very early in our investigation into this scandal that the accounts being abused are virtually invisible to Congress, when they should be extremely transparent and justified in every way."

Four federal programs are eliminated in Emerson's bill: the Administrative Conference of the

United States, the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, the federal payment for the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority and the Public Company and Accounting Oversight Board's scholarship program.