

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500



**OPEN THE  
BOOKS™**  
**IT'S YOUR MONEY!**

Dear Mr. President,

Congratulations. Unfilled jobs are at a record high. Unemployment for Black Americans, Hispanics, Asians, and those with only a high school diploma is at or near record lows. For women, near a 66-year low. For youths, a 50-year low.

Wages are increasing. Regulations are far less counterproductive. Corporate tax rates are globally competitive.

Unfortunately, the federal debt continues to explode—a lurking threat to our country as we have known it. When George W. Bush took office, the federal debt, after 225 years, was \$5.7 trillion. Since then, only 20 years, the debt has exploded—quadrupled—to close to \$23 trillion and is increasing about \$4 billion a day. Sadly, no one in government seems to care.

Mr. President, the world is undergoing exciting changes—the Internet, the Cloud world, Big Data, 5G, the Information Age—all in the birthing process. The potential progress is beyond imagination. These changes give you the tools to tackle this lurking threat. Today, there is no reason why every government expenditure—local, state, and federal—is not online, available real time to the public via cell phone, iPad, or computer. Taxpayers should know how their every dollar is spent. It is their money. Today, we have the ability to do just that.

**MR. PRESIDENT, YOU CAN CREATE A FOUR-STEP NONPARTISAN TRANSPARENCY REVOLUTION.**

You can do for government what Uber and Airbnb did for their industries. They revolutionized their worlds by giving their customers detailed information instantaneously. You can do the same for your customers, the taxpayers, by giving them detailed on-line, real time information on how their money is being spent. Doing so will change who they vote for. Elected officials will be far more likely to inform their constituents of what they have done to eliminate wasted tax dollars rather than some program they put in place to buy votes. This is culture changing. Changes to the culture in government will be far more productive than a top-down budget initiative.

The Transparency Revolution could drastically reduce the cost of government. Government is a monopoly. It has an administrative class, public employee unions, lacks a profit motive, and does not have to deal with progress. This is a lethal combination when it comes to spending other people's money. The following page represents but a small sample of wasted tax dollars.

**STEP 1. PUBLICIZE EVERY WHITE HOUSE EXPENDITURE. DIRECT EVERY DEPARTMENT, EVERY AGENCY IN YOUR ADMINISTRATION TO DO THE SAME AND REPORT THEIR PROGRESS TO YOU MONTHLY.**

**STEP 2. BEGIN A WAR ON WASTE.**

Appoint a White House Efficiency Executive to examine every White House expense. Cut every dollar of waste. Have every department, every agency in your administration do the same. Report the progress to you monthly.

**STEP 3. MOBILIZE EVERY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE.**

Our government has many fine, dedicated public servants. They know where the waste and incompetence are. They should be encouraged to report what they see. They should be rewarded with a percentage of the realized savings with a smaller percentage going to their department head. Hold an annual recognition dinner.

**STEP 4. REPORT THE PROGRESS OR LACK THEREOF TO THE PUBLIC MONTHLY FOR AT LEAST THE FIRST SIX MONTHS, THEN QUARTERLY FOR THE REST OF YOUR ADMINISTRATION.**

By reporting frequently, you are telling the public and your administration that the Transparency Revolution, the War on Waste, is a high, ongoing priority.

Mr. President, fiscal sanity is every bit as crucial to America's survival as is a strong defense. There are no free lunches, even in government. As a successful businessman, you understand the importance of managing debt.

Mr. President, you told us that you were going to attack the deficit, drain the so-called Swamp. That is exactly what this Transparency Revolution will do.

Respectfully,

**Dr. Tom Coburn**  
Honorary Chairman

**Thomas W. Smith**  
Chairman

**Adam Andrzejewski**  
CEO & Founder

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# 100 Examples of Federal Taxpayer Abuse

To learn more, visit [OpenTheBooks.com](http://OpenTheBooks.com)

<b>TESTING SHRIMP ON TREADMILLS – \$1.3 MILLION</b> FY2007-FY2017   NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION	<b>FUNDING HIPSTER PARTIES – \$5 MILLION</b> FY2015   NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH	<b>279 INTERIOR DESIGNERS AT VETERANS AFFAIRS – \$67.1 MILLION</b>   FY2016-FY2018   OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
<b>LOBSTER TAIL &amp; SNOW CRAB PURCHASES – \$25.4 MILLION</b>   FY2017-FY2018   DEPT. OF DEFENSE	<b>VIRTUAL REALITY TO TEACH CHILDREN IN CHINA HOW TO CROSS THE STREET – \$183,750</b> FY2016   TERRI SEWELL   ALABAMA-7   DEMOCRAT	<b>LENDING TO MILLIONAIRES: 40,000 \$1M+ LOANS – \$94 BILLION</b>   FY2014-FY2018   SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
<b>MISTAKEN &amp; IMPROPER PAYMENTS DISTRIBUTED BY 20 FEDERAL AGENCIES – \$1.5 TRILLION</b> FY2004-FY2019   OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT & BUDGET	<b>TAI CHI FOR THE ELDERLY – \$696,723</b> FY2016   MIKE CAPUANO   MASSACHUSETTS-7   DEMOCRAT	<b>MISTAKEN &amp; IMPROPER FARM SUBSIDY PAYMENTS – \$3.7 BILLION</b>   FY2004-FY2017   USDA
<b>DEAD PEOPLE RECEIVED MISTAKEN &amp; IMPROPER PAYMENTS – \$921 MILLION</b>   FY2018   MULTIPLE FEDERAL AGENCIES	<b>MISTAKEN &amp; IMPROPER OVERPAID PELL GRANTS &amp; STUDENT LOANS – \$11 BILLION</b>   FY2017-FY2018   DEPT. OF EDUCATION	<b>HHS PURCHASE OF 1,300 GUNS &amp; 4M ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION – INCLUDING 1 SHOTGUN, 5 SUBMACHINE GUNS &amp; 189 AUTOMATIC FIREARMS – MILLIONS</b>   FY2006-FY2017   HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
<b>EXPENSIVE COFFEE CUPS – \$1,200 EACH   \$350K SPENT</b> FY2018   DEPT. OF DEFENSE	<b>27' ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE – \$21,500</b> FY2016   DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	<b>FARM SUBSIDIES INTO URBAN AREAS – \$626 MILLION</b> FY2015-2017   POPULATION OVER 250K   USDA
<b>LIVING EXPENSE TAX DEDUCTION FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS – \$1.6 MILLION</b>   FY2019   IRS	<b>BOGUS BONUSES RELATED TO F-35 SPARE PARTS SHORTAGE – \$303 MILLION</b>   FY2019   INSPECTOR GENERAL DEFENSE DEPT.	<b>VIDEO GAME FOR YOUR FUTURE-SELF – \$1.4 MILLION</b> FY2014-FY2018   HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES   ROBERT WITTMAN   VIRGINIA-1   REPUBLICAN
<b>MISTAKEN &amp; IMPROPER MEDICARE PAYMENTS – \$491.9 BILLION</b>   FY2004-FY2019   HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	<b>AVERAGE FEDERAL EMPLOYEE RECEIVES 43 DAYS PAID TIME OFF – \$22.6 BILLION</b>   FY2019   OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	<b>RESEARCHING STIGMATIZATION OF DANISH SMOKERS – \$330,176</b>   FY2016   LOU BARLETTA   PENNSYLVANIA-11   REPUBLICAN
<b>SEX ED FOR PROSTITUTES IN CALIFORNIA – \$1.4 MILLION</b>   FY2016   BARBARA LEE   CALIFORNIA-13   DEMOCRAT	<b>160,000 DEFAULTED SBA LOANS – \$24.2 BILLION</b> SINCE FY2000   SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	<b>MEASURING BLOOD PRESSURE AT BLACK BARBERSHOPS – \$2.1 MILLION</b>   FY2016   ADAM SCHIFF   CALIFORNIA-28   DEMOCRAT
<b>2020 STUDENT LOANS (ESTIMATED BAD DEBT LOSS) – \$17 BILLION</b>   FY2020   CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE	<b>COSTS 7 CENTS TO MAKE A NICKEL – \$150 MILLION</b> LITERALLY LOSING MONEY WHILE MAKING THE MONEY FY2019   U.S. MINT	<b>389 FARM SUBSIDY RECIPIENTS OF \$1 MILLION+ – \$667 MILLION</b>   FY2017   USDA
<b>GROUNDING MOON ROCKET COST OVERRUN – \$2.79 BILLION</b>   FY2012-FY2019   NASA	<b>FROG MATING CALL STUDY IN PANAMA – \$466,991</b> FY2019   NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION	<b>GAME FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS – SIMULATING AN EPIDEMIC – \$350,236</b>   FY2016   DAVID MCKINLEY   WEST VIRGINIA-1   REPUBLICAN
<b>USE-IT-OR-LOSE-IT YEAR-END SPENDING SPREE – \$97 BILLION</b>   FINAL MONTH FY2018   ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES	<b>SUPERSTORM SANDY FALSE-CLAIM VEHICLE DAMAGE PAYMENTS TO NYC – \$5.3 MILLION</b> FY2019   FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY	<b>HOW AIR POLLUTION AFFECTS BIRTH BY RACE – \$788,664</b>   FY2016   JERRY MCNERNEY   CALIFORNIA-9   DEMOCRAT
<b>PREPARING RELIGIONS FOR DISCOVERY OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE – \$1.1 MILLION</b> FY2017   NATIONAL SPACE AND AERONAUTICS ADMINISTRATION	<b>IVY LEAGUE COLLEGES – \$42 BILLION</b> FY2010-2015   FEDERAL PAYMENTS, SUBSIDIES, TAX-BREAKS   ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES	<b>VIRTUAL WEIGHT LOSS GAME – \$228,830</b> FY2016   HENRY JOHNSON, JR.   GEORGIA-4   DEMOCRAT
<b>AIRPORT AT MARTHA'S VINEYARD, MA – \$19 MILLION</b> FY2016-FY2020   DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION	<b>USING E-DIARIES TO COPE WITH MICROAGGRESSIONS – \$173,089</b>   FY2016   ADAM KINZINGER   ILLINOIS-16   REPUBLICAN	<b>SMARTPHONE APP FOR PARKING YOUR CAR – \$149,999</b> FY2016   KRYSTEN SINEMA   ARIZONA-9   DEMOCRAT
<b>AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS &amp; UNSPENT BY AGENCIES – \$15 BILLION</b>   FY2018   RESCISSIONS SUBMITTED BY EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT	<b>DANCING WITH 15-FOOT FISH – \$10,000</b>   FY2016   NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES	<b>REFRAMING BELIEFS ABOUT DEATH &amp; DYING AMONG LATINOS – \$882,841</b>   FY2015   NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH, HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
<b>2020 CENSUS COST OVERRUN – \$3.3 BILLION</b> FY2012-FY2023   U.S. CENSUS BUREAU	<b>MEDITATION BREATHING MOBILE APP – \$687,989</b> FY2016   JIM CLYBURN   SOUTH CAROLINA-6   DEMOCRAT	<b>PAYMENTS TO GAY MEXICAN PROSTITUTES FOR SAFE SEX – \$53,419</b>   FY2015   NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
<b>STUDY: HOW FACEBOOK AFFECTS ALCOHOL USE – \$147,686</b> FY2016   JIM MCDERMOTT   WASHINGTON-7   DEMOCRAT	<b>FUNDING A FREQUENTLY INVESTIGATED CHILDCARE FACILITY IN TEXAS – \$32.6 MILLION</b> SHILOH TREATMENT CENTER, INC. FY2013-FY2020   HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	<b>12 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS COLLECTED FARM SUBSIDY PAYMENTS – \$637,059</b>   FY2017   USDA
<b>SPACE RACERS: AN ANIMATED CHILDREN'S CARTOON – \$2.5 MILLION</b>   FY2016   MO BROOKS   ALABAMA-5   REPUBLICAN	<b>WHERE IT HURTS THE MOST TO BE STUNG BY BEE – \$1 MILLION</b>   FY2015   NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION	<b>NON-MILITARY AGENCIES PURCHASE OF GUNS, AMMUNITION, AND MILITARY-STYLE EQUIPMENT – \$2.2 BILLION</b>   FY2006-FY2017   67 NON-MILITARY FEDERAL AGENCIES
<b>FURNITURE BINGE 2018 USE-IT-OR-LOSE-IT SPENDING SPREE – \$491 MILLION</b>   FINAL MONTH FY2018   MULTIPLE FEDERAL AGENCIES	<b>MISTAKEN &amp; IMPROPER SBA LENDING – \$1.8 BILLION</b> FY2018-FY2019   SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	<b>CLIMATE CHANGE VOICEMAILS FROM THE FUTURE (2020-2065) – \$5.7 MILLION</b>   FY2012   COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY   NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
<b>MISTAKEN &amp; IMPROPER MEDICAID PAYMENTS – \$306.6 BILLION</b>   FY2004-FY2019   HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	<b>SUBSIDIZED LENDING TO WALL STREET BANKERS – \$12 BILLION</b>   FY2014-FY2018   SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	<b>NEW CONDOM DESIGN WITH MORE LUBRICATION – \$1.1 MILLION</b>   FY2016-FY2019   HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
<b>GRANTS (SUBSIDIES) TO FORTUNE 100 COMPANIES – \$3.2 BILLION</b>   FY2014-FY2017   MULTIPLE FEDERAL AGENCIES	<b>35,780 FEDERAL LAWYER SALARIES – \$14.3 BILLION</b> FY2016-FY2018   OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	<b>FUNDING CHRISTIAN SEMINARIES TO MINT PASTORS &amp; PRIESTS – \$815 MILLION</b> FY2014-FY2017   DEPT. OF EDUCATION
<b>FUNDING TOP 25 COLLEGES WITH LARGEST ENDOWMENTS – \$6.9 BILLION</b> FY2017-FY2018   DEPT. OF EDUCATION	<b>IRS PURCHASE OF 4,600 GUNS &amp; 5M ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION – INCLUDING 621 SHOTGUNS, 539 RIFLES &amp; 15 SUBMACHINE GUNS – \$15.5 MILLION</b> FY2006-FY2017   IRS	<b>VA PURCHASE OF GUNS, 11 MILLION ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION, AND MILITARY-STYLE EQUIPMENT – \$17.5 MILLION</b>   FY2006-FY2017   VETERANS AFFAIRS
<b>FANCY CUBED-ROCK SCULPTURE – \$482,960</b> FY2016   DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	<b>LUXURY ARTWORK PURCHASES – \$20 MILLION</b> FY2007-FY2016   VETERANS AFFAIRS	<b>TWO SCULPTURES FOR VA FACILITY THAT SERVES BLIND VETERANS – \$670,000</b>   FY2016   DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
<b>TALKING TO SAGUARO CACTUS – \$10,000</b> FY2016   NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES	<b>3,390 FEDERAL PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER SALARIES – \$1.1 BILLION</b>   FY2016-FY2018   202 FEDERAL AGENCIES   OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	<b>GRANTS TO ARTS ORGANIZATIONS WITH OVER \$1 BILLION IN ASSETS – \$143 MILLION</b>   FY2009-2016   NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES
<b>USING SOAP OPERAS TO REDUCE HIV IN URBAN BLACK WOMEN – \$567,529</b>   FY2016   MIKE CAPUANO   MASSACHUSETTS-7   DEMOCRAT	<b>STUDY: ARE PHYSICIAN TRAINEES RACIST? – \$932,741</b> FY2016   TIM WALZ   MINNESOTA-1   DEMOCRAT	<b>ROBERT REDFORD'S SUNDANCE INSTITUTE – \$4.6 MILLION</b>   FY2009-FY2019   NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES
<b>EARNED-INCOME TAX MISTAKEN &amp; IMPROPER OVERPAYMENTS – \$18.8 BILLION</b>   FY2019   IRS	<b>PREVENTING TEEN PREGNANCY THROUGH THEATER – \$749,000</b>   FY2016   CHAKA FATTAH   PENNSYLVANIA-2   DEMOCRAT	<b>FEMINIST PORN BOOK AND OTHER TITLES – \$55,000</b> FY2016   NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES
<b>FEDERAL FUNDING INTO THE 50 WORST JUNIOR AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES – \$923.5 MILLION</b> FY2017-2018   DEPT. OF EDUCATION	<b>VIRTUAL SHOE-FITTING – \$902,789</b> FY2015-FY2016   MORGAN GRIFFITH   VIRGINIA-9   REPUBLICAN FY2015-FY2016   ANNA ESHOO   CALIFORNIA-18   DEMOCRAT	<b>EPA PURCHASE OF GUNS, AMMO, AND MILITARY-STYLE EQUIPMENT – \$3.4 MILLION</b>   FY2006-FY2017   ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
<b>PR CONTRACTS 2018 USE-IT-OR-LOSE-IT SPENDING SPREE – \$462 MILLION</b>   FINAL MONTH FY2018   MULTIPLE FEDERAL AGENCIES	<b>VIDEO GAME: THE LOGICAL JOURNEY OF THE ZOOMBINIS – \$658,388</b>   FY2016   KATHERINE CLARK   MASSACHUSETTS-5   DEMOCRAT	<b>"GAMES FOR CHANGE" VIDEO GAME CONVENTION – \$200,000</b>   FY2016   NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES
<b>UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE MISTAKEN &amp; IMPROPER OVERPAYMENTS – \$3.6 BILLION</b>   FY2019   DEPT. OF LABOR	<b>615 FEDERAL GARDENERS &amp; LANDSCAPERS – \$127.1 MILLION</b>   FY2016-FY2018   OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	<b>CIGAR TASTE TEST – \$114,375</b> FY2016   ROBERT SCOTT   VIRGINIA-3   DEMOCRAT
<b>BUYING BOOZE 2018 USE-IT-OR-LOSE-IT SPENDING SPREE – \$308,994</b>   FINAL MONTH FY2018   STATE DEPT. & DEFENSE DEPT.	<b>SUBSIDIZED LOANS TO EXCLUSIVE CLUBS (YACHT CLUBS, ETC.) – \$281 MILLION</b> FY2007-FY2018   SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	<b>COMEDY CLUB HOLOGRAMS – \$1.7 MILLION</b> FY2017   DEPT. OF COMMERCE
<b>PERFORMANCE BONUSES – 99.7% OF FEDERAL WORKFORCE RATED "HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL" – \$4.4 BILLION</b>   FY2016-FY2019   ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES	<b>HISTORIC HOBO DAY – \$11,987</b> FY2016   KRISTI NOEM   SOUTH DAKOTA-1   REPUBLICAN	<b>LIGHTING FOR LIQUOR STORES – \$50,000</b> FY2017   DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
<b>2020 SBA LENDING (ESTIMATED BAD DEBT LOSS) – \$4 BILLION</b>   FY2020   CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE	<b>STUDY: DISEASE SUSCEPTIBILITY OF TRANSLOCATING TORTOISES – \$350,773</b>   FY2016   GLENN THOMPSON   PENNSYLVANIA-5   REPUBLICAN	<b>HOW TO USE A LAWYER GUIDE – \$728,000</b> FY2015   USDA
<b>FLEET OF ARMORED VEHICLES – \$1.5 MILLION</b> FY2017   DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES	<b>MOBILE APP FOR SEX DIARY – \$1 MILLION</b> FY2016   GRACE NAPOLITANO   CALIFORNIA-32   DEMOCRAT	<b>ADVERTISING &amp; PUBLIC RELATIONS CAMPAIGNS – \$1.4 BILLION</b> FY2020   ALL FEDERAL AGENCIES
<b>SUPPORTED "GREEN GROWTH" IN PERU – \$10 MILLION</b>   FY2019   U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT	<b>CONVINCING MOTHERS TO STOP TEEN GIRLS FROM USING TANNING BEDS – \$671,522</b> FY2016   ED PERLMUTTER   COLORADO-7   DEMOCRAT	<b>HOW ALCOHOL AFFECTS MEN'S ATTENTION AND SENSITIVITY TO SEXUAL INTEREST CUES – \$180,921</b> FY2016   DAVE LOEBACK   IOWA-2   DEMOCRAT
<b>RENOVATION BOONDOOGLE FOR NEW HOMELAND SECURITY HEADQUARTERS – \$2.1 BILLION</b> FY2005-FY2019   HOMELAND SECURITY, GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION		

We Welcome Your Support in our Nonpartisan Transparency Revolution!

Sign our petition at [OpenTheBooks.com/petition](http://OpenTheBooks.com/petition)

110,000 regular Americans have signed the petition