

Waste Action Alert

A publication of the RSC Sunset Caucus from co-chairs Kevin Brady (R-TX) and Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)  
Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH), RSC Chairman

## Eliminate Wasteful Spending on the Organization of American States

December 21, 2011

**Program or Item Targeted:** Funding for the Organization of American States.

**Cost of Program or Item:** Reform or elimination of this expenditure would save between \$11 million and \$57 million in FY 2012, and could save additional money in later years.

**Background on Program or Item to Be Sunseted:** The Organization of American States is an international organization consisting of 35 member states. The official purpose of the organization is “to achieve an order of peace and justice, to promote their solidarity, to strengthen their collaboration, and to defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and their independence.” The United States donates millions of dollars to this organization annually, and is a member state.

The OAS includes countries throughout the Americas including Venezuela and Nicaragua, which have been accused of governing in a manner at odds with their constitutions. The Democratic Charter of the OAS requires that member states cannot unconstitutionally change their own constitutional regimes. What is more, Article 20 of this same charter states that any member country or the Secretary General may request convening the Permanent Council to discuss a country’s unconstitutional changes to its constitutional regime.

**Why This Program Is Wasteful:** The State Department is currently prepared to give \$57 million to the Organization of American States in FY2012. It is prepared to do so in spite of the fact that the OAS works counter to the interests of the United States by supporting the actions of dictators and by failing to uphold its own Democratic Charter. It is a waste of taxpayer money to fund an organization that is not held to its own charter and does not hold its own members accountable when they work to destroy the democratic process. The United States would do better to withhold funding until Article 20 of the OAS’ Democratic Charter is invoked.

**MEMBER ACTION ITEM:** Rep. Connie Mack has introduced H.R. 2542 which cuts 20% of U.S. assessed and voluntary contributions to the Organization of American States (OAS) for every time the Permanent Council meets without invoking Article 20 of the Democratic Charter. If you are interested in being a cosponsor for H.R. 2542 please contact Nathan Gately at [Nathan.Gately@mail.house.gov](mailto:Nathan.Gately@mail.house.gov).

If you would like to participate in eliminating wasteful programs with the RSC Sunset Caucus, please e-mail [Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov](mailto:Rick.Eberstadt@mail.house.gov).

Note: Not every item featured in the Waste Action Alerts is necessarily endorsed by the RSC. These Alerts highlight the individual initiatives of members of the RSC Sunset Caucus.

*“The RSC Sunset Caucus uncovers government waste and seeks to eliminate it,  
working to sunset programs that taxpayers shouldn’t be paying for.”*

