

**The Stay In Place, Cut The Waste Act of 2013 [H.R. 2643]**  
***Introduced by: Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick (PA-08), Rep. John Barrow (D-GA)***

**PROBLEM:** Government agencies spend billions of dollars each year traveling around the country and around the world for meetings and conferences with little oversight on the necessity or importance of the travel. In 2011 alone the federal government spent nearly \$15 billion on travel expenses, as a result President Obama released *Executive Order 13589* encouraging video conference use.

**SOLUTION:** HR 2643 seeks to reduce Federal agency travel expenses as well as support a telework/mobile environment through the use of video conferencing. Citing *Executive Order 13589* and the *Telework Enhancement Act of 2010*, the legislation aims to reduce travel costs by increasing the use of video conferencing as a collaborative tool amongst colleagues or across agencies, especially in a telework/mobile environment.

**HOW IT WILL HELP:** Will enhance communication and problem solving, reduce carbon footprint, facilitate staff training and interagency meetings, and increase productivity-helping to improve collaboration, promote efficiency and improve work-life balance

**LEGISLATIVE TIMELINE AND DETAILS:**

- Six Months
  - OMB will report to both the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs on how much Federal agencies have reduced travel expenses and what their plan is to reduce travel expenses by the 2017 fiscal year
- Beginning with fiscal year 2017 video conferencing will be used to
  - Achieve a 50% reduction in Federal agency travel expenses below fiscal year 2013 levels or;
  - Achieve the greatest reduction in such expenses OMB considers feasible

**GOVERNMENT VIDEO CONFERENCING REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:**

- In 2011 the Federal government spent at least \$15 billion a year on business travel, as a result President Obama released *Executive Order 13589* encouraging video conference use to decrease travel costs
- Cutting federal travel by 50% and replacing with tele-conferencing would save \$4.95 billion from travel budgets
- Statistics:
  - Only 36% of Federal employees speak to colleagues using video conferencing (as compared to 89% from phone and 95% via email)
  - Using video conferencing saves 3.5 hours a week in productivity
  - 76% of federal employees don't think their agencies use video conferencing to the fullest extent, 70% say they are likely to use video conferencing if it was available.
  - 92% of agencies agree using video conferencing would save tax payers dollars
  - 49% reduced carbon footprint
  - 47% improve work life balance