



For Immediate Release  
November 13, 2012

CONTACT: Rachel Harvey, 202-797-6073 [rharvey@brookings.edu](mailto:rharvey@brookings.edu)  
Terrance Woodbury, 202-797-2491 [twoodbury@brookings.edu](mailto:twoodbury@brookings.edu)

To read the policy brief, visit: <http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2012/11/13-investments-spending>.

## Brookings Calls on Congress, Obama Administration to Establish a Commission to Cut Spending, Increase Investments

### *Brookings Policy Briefs Propose Reforms to Cut Deficit, Jumpstart Economy*

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congress and the Obama administration should establish a bipartisan Cut-to-Invest Commission (CIC) to identify budget savings for reducing the deficit and investing in high-priority areas that spur economic growth and job creation, according to a policy brief released today by the Brookings Institution’s Metropolitan Policy Program.

This policy brief is part of a new government reform series entitled, [Remaking Federalism / Renewing the Economy](#), launched today. The series addresses both the near-term “fiscal cliff” showdown and the longer-term budgetary, economic, and political challenges that will require response in the coming months. Through this series, the Metropolitan Policy Program will encourage the Obama administration to seek solutions beyond the partisan gridlock in Washington and to empower state and metro areas through programs such as the Cut-to-Invest Commission.

Modeled on the successful Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) Commission, the CIC would recommend \$200 billion in cuts over ten years from underperforming, duplicative, or counter-productive programs and tax expenditures. Half of the savings identified would be used to reduce the deficit, with the other half invested in areas such as innovation, clean energy, infrastructure, and education.

“Public investment expands the private economy’s capacity to grow and create wealth. But it should be used only when markets fail to generate satisfactory levels of private investment,” stated Paul Weinstein, director of the MA in Public Management program at the Johns Hopkins University and author of this brief. “At this time of great fiscal constraint, federal policymakers

should redirect the savings from unnecessary tax expenditures and low-priority or redundant programs to areas with the potential for significant public benefits.”

The CIC would have the authority to review all executive branch agencies, discretionary and mandatory programs, and targeted tax incentives. It would also have the power to recommend \$100 billion in investments in the nation’s long-term prosperity.

The policy brief further describes the current problem, outlines budget implications, and details the implementation requirements of establishing a Cut-to-Invest Commission.

**The Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings**—*Created in 1996, the Metropolitan Policy Program (MPP) provides decision-makers with cutting-edge research and policy ideas for improving the health and prosperity of metropolitan areas including their component cities, suburbs, and rural areas. To learn more visit: [www.brookings.edu/metro](http://www.brookings.edu/metro). Follow us at [Twitter.com/BrookingsMetro](https://twitter.com/BrookingsMetro).*

###