

# Bush budget mirrors Musgrave bill

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THE PUEBLO CHIEFTAIN

President Bush apparently borrowed a page from two Colorado lawmakers in asking for greater power over the federal budget.

Republican Rep. Marilyn Musgrave and Democratic Rep. Mark Udall sponsored legislation last year to do exactly what Bush is requesting — the authority to send budget items

back to Congress for item-specific votes.

Musgrave, who represents the 4th District and the Eastern Plains, said the White House plan mirrors the SLICE Act that she sponsored with Udall, who represents the 2nd District.

“President Bush’s proposal will shine light on egregious spending measures and is akin to what I’ve long supported,” she said Monday. “Putting congressmen on the spot by forcing

them to vote to justify their costly spending on the chamber floor is a persuasive tool in preventing unnecessary spending.”

The Supreme Court has said the president does not have authority to veto line items in the budget, which is Congress’s responsibility. Musgrave’s and Udall’s legislation would let him identify specific budget items for Congress to vote on separately.