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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10 NOVEMBER 2008

CONTACT: John Kartch
202-785-0266

Coalition Urges U.S. Senate to Kill Land Omnibus Pork Bill

109 organizations representing taxpayers, shareholders, and businesses sign letter to the U.S. Senate

WASHINGTON, DC— Today, a letter signed by 109 national and state organizations from across the country was delivered to the Senate requesting that the Senate oppose the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2008. The letter can be viewed at www.ATR.org.

This legislation contains over 1,000 pages and is comprised of more than 100 different land grab bills. This bill costs more than \$3 billion and will put millions of acres of land under federal control and restricts energy exploration over millions of acres in this country. The federal government already owns more than 650 million acres, roughly 30 percent of the entire country. Half of that land suffers from serious neglect and severe maintenance backlogs.

“The bans on offshore and shale oil drilling have recently expired, despite severe opposition by the Left in Congress,” stated Grover Norquist president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“Now, Sen. Reid is throwing a temper-tantrum and trying to steal Western American lands to prevent access to this newly available domestic resource. I’ll have bad ideas for \$100, Alex.”**

As stated in the letter, *“By restricting access to land for energy exploration, this legislation is limiting the potential of the economy and directly interfering with America’s entrepreneurial drive. Through the creation of unnecessary new “conservation” programs, millions of additional acres of land will be managed by a vast government bureaucracy and its additional levels of “red tape.” This bill would ultimately force the American taxpayer to fund the purchase of land that could have otherwise been utilized in the private sector.”*