

Unbelievably, Stimulus Bill Getting Worse

Senate Appropriations Committee Compounds Wasteful Spending Passed by House Democrats

While even President Obama has indicated that he hoped the stimulus bill could be “strengthened” in the Senate. The version produced by the Senate Appropriations Committee actually contains even more waste:

On Fox News, Democrat Senator Ben Nelson Outlines Just Four Wasteful Programs At More Than \$1.6 Billion And Says "We're Talking In The Billions And Tens Of Billions That We're Looking To Exclude" From The Stimulus Package. FOX NEWS' MARTHA MACCALLUM: "Senator Nelson, Martha MacCallum here. I just want to ask you one quick question. Can you tell me specifically what you would like to see taken out of this bill, and also what you think is likely to be trimmed out of the bill in the Senate?" SEN. NELSON: "Well, just a few examples: There's \$350 million in the bill for computers at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, another \$100 million for a certain kind of research, \$1.1 billion for medical research to determine which medical procedures are more effective than others. Those may be important things to do, and they can be done in the regular budget process. Or, as in the case of the smoking cessation, which they have already taken out, \$75 million has already been taken out, but it was in there as well. So, really there are a myriad of those kinds of programs, all of which are basically good, that don't belong in the stimulus package. FOX NEWS' TRACE GALLAGHER: "And it seems to that even Robert Gibbs, the White House Press Secretary, was just saying well the media is focusing on some \$770 million, as if \$770 million is just throw around money these days." SEN. NELSON: "Well, it's more money than that. We're talking in the billions and tens of billions that we're looking to exclude from this particular program because they will be primarily spending – largely spending, not as simulative as some of the other programs which we are certainly going to fight to keep in." (Fox News' "Live Desk," 2/2/09)

Grass on the National Mall is Out, But Senate Adds \$88 Million for ATV Trails, Park Trails, Fish and Wildlife Trails, and “Fish Passages” (Pages 45 and 46, Senate Report)

- House Republicans successfully fought for the removal of \$200 million to, among other things, plant grass in Washington, D.C.
- While that spending is not included in the Senate bill, other questionable spending is, including:
 - \$20 million “for the removal of small-to-medium-sized fish passage barriers”
 - \$25 million “for recreation maintenance, especially for rehabilitation of off-road vehicle routes”
 - Another \$43 million for other park and fish and wildlife trails

Senate Deletes The House’s \$50 Million For The National Endowment For The Arts, But Adds \$100 Million for the Economic Development Administration for “Mob Museums?” (Page 11, Senate Report)

- While the Senate deleted the \$50 million proposed by the House for the NEA, they included \$100 million for the Economic Development Administration (EDA)
- EDA funds are often used for museums as detailed on their [website](#).
- These funds could even be used to fund the so-called “mob museum” in Las Vegas, Nevada

-- Over --

Senate Diverts \$90 Million of \$650 Million Program To Subsidize The Purchase Of Analog To Digital TV Converter Boxes To “Public Interest Groups” (Page 39, Senate Bill)

- While both the Senate and the House bill set-aside \$650 million for the conversion to digital TV, the Senate sets-aside \$90 million for “education and outreach, including grants to organizations...”
- \$90 million would be twenty-times the amount awarded to two groups as of November 21 when they awarded \$1.65 million to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund in addition to the \$2.7 million already awarded to the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging. (Source: [NTIA](#))

\$335 Million For STD Education And Prevention In The House Bill Grows To \$400 Million In The Senate Bill (Page 61, Senate Report)

UPDATE: Senate Democrats Try to Hide STD Funding

- The version of the stimulus reported out of the Senate Appropriations committee included a set-aside of \$400 million for STD prevention out of a pot of \$5.8 for the “Public Health and Social Services emergency Fund” (See Page 138, lines 5-7 available [here](#)).
 - The version now being debated on the floor deletes this set-aside, but leaves the total \$5.8 billion in spending (See Page 137, line 17 available [here](#)).
 - So if the STD money is really gone, shouldn’t the overall level of spending have gone down?
- In order to control and prevent sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), CDC used its budget for the following purposes:
 - A transgender beauty pageant in San Francisco that advertised available HIV testing.
 - Funded an event, also put on by the Stop AIDS Project, called “Got Love? – Flirt/Date/Score” that taught participants how “to flirt with greater finesse.”
 - Funded events called “Booty Call” and “Great Sex” put on by an organization that received \$698,000 in government funds. (Source: [Townhall.com](#))

Other Examples of Pure Waste or Non-Stimulus Spending in the Senate Bill Include:

\$13 million for research related to volunteer service (*Committee Report page 66*)

\$404 million for cyber-security and IT expenses by Department of State (*Committee Report page 77*)

\$25 million in detention center improvements, repairs and maintenance for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (*Committee Report page 48*)

\$20 million for IT improvements at the Bureau of Industry and Security (*Committee Report page 11*)

\$34 million of renovations at the Department of Commerce (*Committee Report page 15*)

\$70 million for a support computer for climate research (*Committee Report page 15*)

\$524 million to create “388 jobs in the United States” through the State Department Capital Investment Fund— this equals \$1.35 million per job created (*Committee Report page 76*)

\$696 million for DHS headquarters consolidation (*Committee Report page 37 and 40*)