

APPROPRIATIONS ALERT

BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

B-71 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Representative Paul D. Ryan, *Ranking Republican*

Phone: (202)-226-7270
Fax: (202)-226-7174
Augustine T. Smythe, *Republican Staff Director*

FISCAL YEAR 2009 OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS STILL MORE SPENDING – AND MORE DEBT (H.R. 1105)

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The Majority's omnibus appropriations bill completes a trilogy of trillion-dollar actions by the 111th Congress: it follows a \$1-trillion "stimulus" bill with another trillion dollars of discretionary spending, adding to a deficit that already exceeds a record one trillion dollars. As scored by the Congressional Budget Office [CBO], the \$407.6-billion omnibus increases nonemergency discretionary spending by \$29 billion, or 7.7 percent, compared with enacted levels for fiscal year 2008. That increase alone is several times greater than inflation (currently 0.03 percent) at a time when the U.S. economy is shrinking. But when combined with the three appropriations bills enacted under the regular order, *the Majority has increased discretionary spending by \$80 billion, or 8.6 percent, over the 2008 level.*

Even these figures understate the Majority's spending spree, however, because many programs receiving increases in this measure already were boosted in the recent "stimulus" bill. With this "double dipping," spending in programs covered by the omnibus nearly doubles compared with 2008. The 1,128-page omnibus measure comes to the floor under a closed rule, denying Members any opportunity for amendments. Here are some key points about the legislation.

- **Total Discretionary Spending Increases by 8.6 Percent.** Even facing the largest deficit since World War II – and following several large spending bills adopted in recent months (such as the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act, and the recent "stimulus" bill) – the Majority nevertheless is shoveling out yet more money in a fiscal year that is nearly half over. As noted, the bill increases total nonemergency discretionary spending by \$29 billion, or 7.7 percent, when compared with enacted levels for fiscal year 2008 (see Table 1). The bill provides the largest increase in annual appropriations for these agencies and programs since the Carter administration (excluding 9/11 funding), according to the House Appropriations Republican staff. When previously enacted appropriations are added, total discretionary spending increases by \$80 billion, or 8.6 percent. (see Table 2).
- **Double Dipping.** The bill boosts spending for numerous activities that already received substantial increases in the recent "stimulus" bill. For example, the Rural Housing Service received \$11.5 billion in the "stimulus" bill, and yet gets another \$2-billion increase in the omnibus. The "stimulus" provided \$16.8 billion for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, but apparently even that was not enough: the omnibus adds another \$206 million. The National Park Service got \$750 million in the "stimulus," and still gets a \$135-million boost in the omnibus. Finally, even though the National Endowment for the Arts [NEA] received \$50 million in the "stimulus" bill, the omnibus provides another \$21-million increase for the NEA. When both bills are taken together, they add up to a

kind of stimulus on steroids: *total discretionary spending in the programs covered by the omnibus increases by \$301 billion, or roughly 80 percent, compared with last year.*

- **Deepening the Deficit.** With this year’s deficit already estimated at more than \$1.3 trillion, and likely to remain at record levels for at least the next 4 years, the omnibus bill adds another \$19 billion in appropriations (\$13 billion in outlays) this year alone (compared with the annualized rate in the continuing resolution [CR]); and it will increase the deficit, compared with CBO’s nonemergency baseline, by \$108 billion for the 2009-19 period, according to a House Budget Committee Republican staff estimate.
- **Earmarks.** The bill contains 8,696 Member-sponsored earmarks totaling \$11 billion. These include \$15 million for California Emission Reduction Grants; \$1.8 million for swine odor and manure management; \$200,000 for tattoo removal; \$1.9 million for a water taxi service in Connecticut; and \$2.2 million for grape genetics (see Table 3). There are also 85 earmarks for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration which already received \$1 billion in the “stimulus” bill. Counting both the CR and the omnibus, there are 11,297 earmarks at a cost of \$25.6 billion.
- **Gimmicks.** The gimmicks in the bill include \$28.8 billion in “advance appropriations” – spending loaded up for 2010; \$100 million in “emergency” spending (after the Majority already spent \$787 billion for the emergency “stimulus” bill); and \$3.2 billion in rescissions of highway contract authority that will produce no expenditure savings.

Table 1: Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Bill (H.R. 1105)
(Budget Authority, in Billions of Dollars Annualized)

| | FY 2008 Enacted | FY 2009 | Dollar Increase | Percent Increase |
|--|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Agriculture | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 18.093 | 20.456 | 2.363 | 13.1% |
| Outlays | 19.528 | 21.530 | 2.002 | 10.3% |
| Commerce, Justice, Science | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 51.803 | 57.652 | 5.849 | 11.3% |
| Outlays | 53.441 | 57.372 | 3.931 | 7.4% |
| Energy and Water | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 30.888 | 33.261 | 2.373 | 7.7% |
| Outlays | 32.340 | 32.270 | -0.07 | -0.2% |
| Financial Services | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 20.599 | 22.697 | 2.098 | 10.2% |
| Outlays | 20.903 | 22.890 | 1.987 | 9.5% |
| Interior and Environment | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 26.555 | 27.579 | 1.024 | 3.9% |
| Outlays | 28.052 | 28.659 | .607 | 2.2% |
| Labor, HHS, Education | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 144.841 | 149.935 | 5.094 | 3.5% |
| Outlays | 146.292 | 150.134 | 3.842 | 2.6% |
| Legislative Branch | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 3.970 | 4.402 | .432 | 10.9% |
| Outlays | 4.008 | 4.330 | .322 | 8.0% |
| State, Foreign Operations | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 32.800 | 36.620 | 3.820 | 11.6% |
| Outlays | 32.841 | 36.219 | 3.378 | 10.3% |
| Transportation, HUD | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 48.821 | 55.000 | 6.179 | 12.7% |
| Outlays | 114.270 | 114.663 | .393 | 0.3% |
| Subtotal: Omnibus Appropriations Bill | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 378.370 | 407.602 | 29.232 | 7.7% |
| Outlays | 451.675 | 468.067 | 16.392 | 3.6% |

Source: Congressional Budget Office (2008 scored levels at time of enactment).

Table 2: Total Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations
(Budget Authority, in Billions of Dollars Annualized)

| | FY 2008 Enacted | FY 2009 | Dollar Increase | Percent Increase |
|---|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Omnibus Appropriations Bill (from Table 1) | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 378.370 | 407.602 | 29.232 | 7.7% |
| Outlays | 451.675 | 468.067 | 16.392 | 3.6% |
| Previously Enacted Appropriations (Public Law 110-329) | | | | |
| Defense | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 459.332 | 487.737 | 28.405 | 6.2% |
| Outlays | 475.164 | 525.250 | 50.116 | 10.5% |
| Homeland Security | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 34.852 | 42.164 | 7.312 | 21.0% |
| Outlays | 38.028 | 42.625 | 4.597 | 12.1% |
| Military Construction, VA | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 60.213 | 72.863 | 12.650 | 21.0% |
| Outlays | 52.232 | 66.881 | 14.649 | 28.0% |
| Labor, HHS Education ^a | | | | |
| Budget Authority | – | 2.320 | 2.320 | 100.0% |
| Outlays | – | 1.624 | 1.624 | 100.0% |
| Subtotal: Previously Enacted Appropriations | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 554.397 | 605.084 | 50.687 | 9.1% |
| Outlays | 565.424 | 636.410 | 70.986 | 12.6% |
| Total: Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations | | | | |
| Budget Authority | 932.767 | 1,012.686 | 79.919 | 8.6% |
| Outlays | 1,017.099 | 1,104.500^b | 87.401^b | 8.6% |

Source: Congressional Budget Office (2008 scored levels at time of enactment).

^a Appropriations for these activities were increased in the continuing resolution.

^b Fiscal Year 2009 includes \$23 million in outlays from Public Law 110-252

Table 3: Selected Earmarks in Omnibus Appropriations Bill

| Earmark | Amount |
|---|--------------|
| California Emission Reduction Grants | \$15,000,000 |
| Illinois Pedestrian and Bicycling Road and Trail Improvements | \$2,850,000 |
| Center for Grape Genetics | \$2,192,000 |
| Center for Advanced Viticulture and Tree Crop Research | \$2,192,000 |
| Promotion of Astronomy in Hawaii | \$2,000,000 |
| Pleasure Beach Water Taxi Service, Connecticut | \$1,900,000 |
| Honey Bee Lab | \$1,762,000 |
| Swine Odor and Manure Management | \$1,791,000 |
| Sustainable Las Vegas | \$951,500 |
| Study Alternative Uses for Tobacco | \$280,000 |
| Tattoo Removal Violence Prevention Outreach | \$200,000 |
| Digitization of New York Historical Society Collection | \$190,000 |

This document was prepared by the Republican staff of the Committee on the Budget, U.S. House of Representatives. It has not been approved by the full committee and may not reflect the views of individual committee members.