

GOVERNMENT

Waste Watch

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CONGRESSIONAL RATINGS ISSUE

The Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW) 2007 Congressional Ratings are different this year – the number of votes ranked in the House and the Senate are greater than usual. There are 100 votes in the House and 35 in the Senate.

CCAGW Ratings (continued on page 6)

NEWS FLASH:

Congress Still Doesn't Get It!



Message

FROM THE

President

By Thomas A. Schatz



What They Did Before the Bailout (Nothing)

When Congress left for its traditional August recess, it had accomplished virtually nothing. Of the 106 bills enacted since January, 94, or 89 percent were to name government buildings or lands, extend or make technical corrections to existing laws, or passed either by unanimous consent or with less than 10 dissenting votes. The accomplishments included "Frank Sinatra Day," National Plumbing Industry Week," and "National Day of the Cowboy."

There was even a floor debate in late June over the earliest reference to the word "baseball." Rep. John Olver (D-Mass.) sponsored the commemorative bill, H. Res. 1050, "Recognizing Pittsfield, Massachusetts, as being home to the earliest known reference to the word 'baseball' in the United States as well as being the birthplace of college baseball." He based his claim in part on a 1791 Pittsfield law, first discovered in 2004 in the town's archives, that banned "Wicket, Cricket, Baseball, Football, Cat, Fives or any other game of games with balls," due to concern that players might break windows in the town's new meetinghouse.

While Congress fiddled around with meaningless resolutions, the projected deficit for fiscal 2009 hit a record \$482 billion, and the deadline for passing the 12 annual appropriations bills was deliberately ignored. Only one



of the bills, covering military construction and veterans affairs, has passed the House, and four others have been approved by the House Appropriations Committee. In the Senate, nine have been approved by the Appropriations Committee but none have reached the floor.

There are two reasons for this failure to act. First, the Speaker and Majority Leader appear to be waiting for the presidential election to decide what to do with these bills, hoping that the winner in November would favor higher spending and more earmarks.

Second, the moratorium on offshore drilling for oil and gas expires on September 30, and it is usually renewed through the appropriations process. When the recess began, both the Speaker and Majority Leader were not only opposed to drilling, they were adamantly refusing to even hold a vote on the subject matter. On August 1, they shut down Congress for the traditional August recess (where they do nothing except campaign for re-election). House Republicans took to the darkened House floor, demanding that Congress go back into session and

hold an up-or-down vote to lift the drilling ban.

Speaker Pelosi took off on her taxpayer-financed vacation, promoted her new book, and did her best to ignore the gathering drumbeat of support for drilling. National polls showed that more than 70 percent of Americans wanted to open up the Outer Continental Shelf to exploration. Even in California, where residents have long resisted drilling, a majority thought it was a good idea. An August 10 *San Diego Times Union* editorial said, "When a majority of Californians signal to pollsters their support for offshore oil drilling, something dramatic is occurring. In this case, it is the price of gasoline lurching toward \$5 a gallon. Suddenly, Americans have awakened with a hangover to their perilous reliance on foreign oil, which has escalated alarmingly since the oil shocks of three decades ago."

The editors noted that they had long been opposed to drilling off of San Diego's coast. But they noted changed circumstances, including increased dependence on foreign oil and improved technology to prevent oil spills. They even called for drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which they correctly called "a vast untapped petroleum supply that is far removed from human activity."

The rallying cry for a vote on removing the moratorium on offshore drilling finally reached

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President's Message (continued from page 2)

the ears of Democratic leaders. While Republicans (and many Democrats) want a straight up or down vote on lifting the entire moratorium, the Speaker remains opposed to such a vote. She will, however, consider a vote on lifting part of the moratorium, but only tied to a larger (and costly) energy package.

Majority Leader Reid's initial response was to threaten to shut down the government by refusing to allow any appropriations bills to reach the Senate floor, including a continuing resolution that would allow agencies to operate at the fiscal year 2008 spending levels. He relented in his opposition after Speaker Pelosi, but agreed with her strategy of tying the offshore drilling to a more comprehensive energy bill.

The House has already voted once to lift the entire ban on offshore drilling. On June 30, 2006, the House voted 232-187 to lift a 25-year ban on offshore drilling along most of the U.S. coastline. That proposal was not approved in the Senate; instead, a more limited lifting of the ban, covering only 8.7 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico, was approved by Congress. An update on drilling legislation appears on page 19.

The Democrats' response to the "do-nothing" label has been to cite the passage of a higher minimum wage, expanded college aid, and extended unemployment benefits. Congress also passed the \$300 billion housing bailout and the \$168 billion economic-stimulus package.

Legislation that would reduce wasteful spending, cut taxes, or reform entitlements, instead of expanding the size, scope and intrusion of government, is a glaring omission from that list of "accomplishments." When Congress returned in September following the party conventions, taxpayers got more of the same nothing...expect for the \$700 billion housing bailout.

Department of Defense Delays Air Force Tanker Contract Decision...Again

By Sam Leverenz
Research Intern

The Department of Defense (DoD) has once again flip-flopped with regard to the awarding of a \$40 billion Air Force aerial refueling tanker contract.

The Air Force has been attempting to replace its deteriorating mid-air refueling fleet since March 2002. On September 10, 2008, Pentagon procurement officials threw in the towel and kicked the decision over to the new administration. The cost of maintaining the aircraft has tripled in the past decade, reaching \$2.4 billion in 2002, with total costs ballooning to an estimated \$5.1 billion by the time the old tankers are phased out.

After Congress blocked attempts to give the Boeing Company a \$23 billion leasing deal in 2004, Boeing and Northrop Grumman officially competed under a *new* competitive bidding process. After another year of review, the DoD awarded the contract to the EADS/Northrop Grumman consortium in February, 2008.

Boeing lodged an official protest with the Government Accountability Office (GAO), and politicians from the states which host the aerospace contractor cried foul as well. On June 18, GAO decided to restart the entire bidding process. Defense Secretary Robert Gates removed the procurement process from traditional Air Force jurisdiction, placing it in the office of the Undersecretary of Defense, and promised a final decision by the end of 2008.

But on September, 10, the Pentagon made an abrupt about-face. Top officials notified Congress that the decision over the new bid had been suspended indefinitely, guaranteeing the whole mess will land in the lap of the next administration. In addition, one of the main contenders, Boeing, has been hit with a machinist's strike, inspiring concerns over that company's production possibilities with regard to the tanker.

In announcing the decision, Secretary Gates admitted that the process had "become enormously complex and emotional—in no small part because of mistakes and missteps along the way by the Department of Defense."

Further insight into what happened behind the scenes at the Pentagon came to light when John Young, the Pentagon's Undersecretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, was quoted in a September 18 *Washington Post* article stating that under the tanker proposal offered by Northrop Grumman and its partner EADS, development costs for the first 68 aircraft would have cost \$12.5 billion, compared with \$15.4 billion under the Boeing proposal. He went on to add that Boeing's tanker "was smaller and should have been cheaper. A member of the American public might conclude that Boeing sought to charge more than the Defense Department reasonably expected to pay."

Meanwhile, the Air Force continues to fly the same aircraft, designed in the nineteen fifties, at a cost of almost \$3 billion per year and the taxpayers are left to marvel at the acute dysfunction of the entire Defense procurement process. By the time the decision is made, it will have been over seven years since the process began, millions of taxpayer dollars will have been wasted, and a wide array of government agencies and departments will have been lost while bureaucrats ruminated over the minutiae of this single procurement... twice. Yet, the Air Force, during a time of war, and the taxpayers, during a severe economic recession, will be no closer to upgrading and modernizing this critically important \$40 billion dollar component of our war-fighting infrastructure.

Guest Column

Our Fiscal Future: Congress Can, and *Must*, Do Better

By Rep. Paul Ryan (R-Wis.), Ranking
Member, House Committee on the Budget



A sluggish economy, higher prices for basics such as food and gasoline, declining home values—it's a tough time for the American taxpayer.

Regrettably, Congress is doing little to ensure a better tomorrow.

The majority in Congress recently voted, for a second straight year, to impose on already-squeezed American workers and businesses a \$683 billion tax hike—the largest in our nation's history—starting in 2011.

While demanding Americans make do with less, Congress itself has abandoned even the *pretense* of spending control—ballooning spending across-the-board, and refusing to forgo—for even one year—its own pork-barrel spending.

Yet the worst blow to taxpayers will result not from what Congress has done, but what it has failed to do: address the looming crisis of entitlement spending.

The greatest threat to our nation's economic and budgetary future is the unsustainable growth of our largest entitlements—particularly Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. As experts have long warned Congress, not only will these programs grow themselves right into

extinction, they'll impose a crushing burden on our economy and budget in the process—piling massive amounts of debt on future generations, crippling our ability to compete in the international marketplace, and dramatically reducing Americans' standards of living.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, by the time my three kids are my age, the Federal Government will consume 40% of Gross Domestic Product—about twice the average of the past 40 years—and require double the taxes we pay today, just to keep the government afloat. No new programs, no new spending—*double the taxes just to maintain the status quo.*

This is the future we face if we do nothing. I believe we can—and must—set a different course.

That is why I recently introduced legislation, called *A Roadmap for America's Future*, to transform the Federal Government to meet the challenges of the 21st century, and to restore our long-held legacy of leaving the next generation better off.

The *Roadmap* achieves three primary objectives: fulfilling the mission of health and retirement security; lifting the burden of debt on the next generation; and making America the most economically competitive nation in the world.

Based on the analysis of government actuaries, this legislation is projected to make the Social Security and Medicare programs *permanently* solvent, lift the growing debt burden on future generations, and hold federal taxes to 18.5% of GDP.

Not everyone will agree with every aspect of my plan, and that's fine. But it is my sincere hope that it will spur Congress to move beyond simply rehashing the problem—to the politically difficult, but critical task of debating, and implementing actual *solutions*.

This task will not be easy. Members of Congress spend far too much time worrying about getting reelected—and many refuse to even *talk* about reforming entitlements during an election year. But every other year is an election year!

Americans *know* there's a problem. They're beginning to understand the *magnitude* of the problem. And—I can tell you from my own experience—they're ready to hear from their Federal government about how we plan to *solve* the problem. Now we just need to get *Washington* up to speed with the rest of the country.

But we can't do this alone. This is where organizations such as Citizens Against Government Waste play such an essential role. Only through the engagement of the grassroots and Internet communities do we have a chance to move the debate forward in Congress.

Together, we can show others that addressing the entitlement crisis isn't just our greatest economic and budgetary challenge—it's an historic opportunity. It's an opportunity to reform these programs in line with the principles that have made our country great, and to transform the Federal Government with the realities of the new century. To learn more about *A Roadmap for America's Future* and to get engaged on the entitlement issue, I encourage you to visit my web site at www.americanroadmap.org.



Agriculture Update

By John Frydenlund
Director of CAGW's Center
for International Food and
Agriculture Policy

Sobering lessons for the country from the 2008 Farm Bill

As fuel and food price increases eat into the profits of American businesses and the pocketbooks of U.S. consumers, calls for action from federal policy makers are growing. The recent performance of both Congress and the Bush Administration on the 2008 Farm Bill enacted this summer, however, offers an important but sobering lesson about prospects for reasonable action on the part of our nation's political leaders. It strongly suggests that a titanic shift in business-as-usual politics will have to occur before this Congress or the White House will make a real difference in the lives of Americans on these critical issues.

Only a year ago, there was widespread optimism that all of the pieces were in place for a farm bill that would finally transform the wasteful farm subsidy programs that mostly benefit large, wealthy farms producing a handful of crops. Prices for subsidized crops were skyrocketing. Net farm income was at record levels. Federal ethanol subsidies were already underwriting farmers' incomes. The budget was hemorrhaging red ink. And the broadest reform coalition in the history of the farm bill was advocating intensely for change.

While the stage was set in 2007, the recently enacted 2008 Farm Bill represents regression, not reform. Not only did it increase subsidies for most commodities and add new commodities to the subsidy list, it provides nearly \$40 billion in subsidy payments whether recipients need the help or not. Under the new law, married couples receiving subsidy payments can have up to \$2.5 million in income after expenses have been deducted. According to the Center for Rural Affairs, few farmers will be affected. In addition, it created a new "disaster aid" slush fund, estimated to cost another \$3.8 billion, for farmers already receiving crop subsidies and federally subsidized crop insurance.

How could such a law have been enacted overwhelmingly by a Congress in which both the Republicans and Democrats, since the 2006 elections, have waged public relations wars over who can claim to be the real party of fiscal responsibility?

First, the role of the Bush Administration as a reform agent was grossly overestimated. Although the Administration talked the talk about freer markets and subsidy reform, it failed to walk the walk. Initially, it did help improve the climate for reform by pushing for somewhat tougher subsidy eligibility requirements. However, its proposals were modest at best and would not have led to significant cuts in subsidies. To make matters worse, the Administration defended the trade-distorting U.S. cotton subsidy program when it was ruled illegal by the World Trade Organization, sending a message that it wasn't very serious about subsidy reform. Even though the President ultimately vetoed the bill sent by Congress, the White House turned that into a largely symbolic gesture when it gave House Republicans a pass to "vote their districts" and ensured that its veto would be overridden.

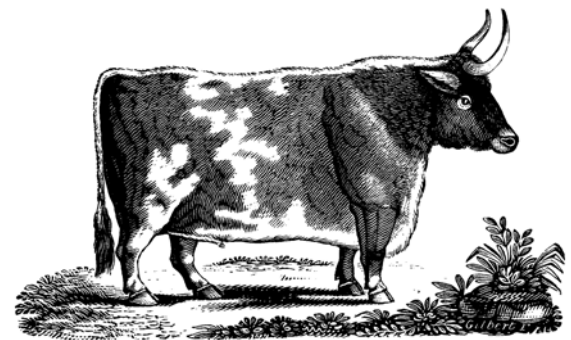
Second, instead of standing behind their promises of greater fiscal responsibility, both Democrats and Republicans on the agriculture committees, with the help of congressional leaders, used marginal increases in funding for other farm bill programs, such as Food Stamps and conservation programs, to buy support for the status quo from urban and suburban members of Congress. To sweeten the pie, this farm bill, unlike any in history, was loaded with earmarks, including one to benefit race horse owners, which was added to gain the support of Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

In the end, members of Congress were never really free to engage in a long-overdue straight-up congressional referendum on the farm subsidy programs. To get their pet programs funded, they chose the easy road of holding their noses and going along with the status quo on farm subsidies. To be sure, that was a very clever and potent legislative strategy. But whether it was in the best interests of the nation as a whole is another matter altogether.

Third, electoral politics won out over good policy making. The one-time farm subsidy reformer, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), in order to consolidate Democratic gains in rural districts in the last election, pressured House Democrats not to support subsidy reforms. On the other side of the aisle, the Republican Leadership, fearing further losses in rural districts in 2008, failed to mobilize House Republicans to vote for subsidy reform amendments on the House floor or to sustain the President's veto.

Despite the outcome, Congress arguably paid a price for bending to the will of the farm subsidy lobby. Since January 2007, more than 400 editorials were published by newspapers all over the country, calling for real farm subsidy reform and lambasting business as usual in Congress. It is a remarkable outcome for a second-tier national news story and will do little to help Congress' already abysmal approval ratings.

In the final analysis, the energy of last year's perfect storm for farm subsidy reform was depleted by a lack of political will, clever but cynical vote trading, and the dominance of election-centered politics in Congress. That is a potent recipe for federal policy that caters to the special interests rather than the national interest. It does not bode well for real long-term solutions to the costly farm subsidies that most concern the majority of Americans.



COUNCIL FOR CITIZENS AGAINST GOVERNMENT WASTE

2007 CONGRESSIONAL RATINGS

CCAGW Ratings (continued from page 1)

The reason for this increase is the growing number of members of Congress who are stepping up and opposing earmarks. In the *2006 Congressional Ratings*, 19 amendments were offered in the House and five amendments in the Senate in relation to pork-barrel spending in the appropriations and authorizing bills. In the House in 2007, there were 50 such amendments offered by Reps. John Campbell (R-Calif.), Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), Scott Garrett (R-N.J.) and Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas). In the Senate, Sens. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) and Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) led the effort on earmark-related amendments.

Surprisingly, most Members of Congress still “don’t get it” when it comes to more spending and earmarking, but their constituents do. A June 2008 poll conducted by the Club for Growth found that 54 percent of likely voters want their elected officials in Washington to cut overall spending, even if that includes cutting some money that would go to their district. Only 29 percent wanted their member of Congress to increase overall spending on federal programs.

CCAGW’s *2007 Congressional Ratings* reflect some positive trends. For example, in the House in 2007, an average of 89 members voted for earmark-related amendments. In fact, one amendment passed that removed \$129,000 for the “Home of the Perfect Christmas Tree” project in Mitchell County, N.C., from the House Financial Services Appropriations Act. In 2006, an average of 68 members voted for similar amendments, none of which passed.

In spite of a growing recognition that earmarks are a problem, Congress still spends more than is necessary. Too often citizens hear their elected officials say, “the federal government will pay for this program,” or “it is only \$2 million to fund this small project,” forgetting where the money comes from – the taxpayers.

With the high price of gasoline and rising inflation, citizens are cutting their spending and focusing more on priorities. No doubt most taxpayers could find a way to save one penny from every dollar they spend, but not Congress. Rep. Tom Price (R-Ga.) offered several amendments in 2007 that would have cut spending across the

board by 1 percent in appropriations bills. All of his attempts failed. Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-Colo.) also offered amendments that would have cut spending across the board by a mere 0.5 percent, but she too failed. In fact, Rep. John Campbell (R-Calif.) offered an amendment that would have cut spending across the board for the fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Act by 0.25 percent—that is one-quarter of a penny from every dollar spent—yet even that went down by a vote of 177 to 245.

One victory was the defeat of the effort to expand the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) by \$35 billion and extend it to middle-class families. SCHIP was designed to help low-income families who made too much to qualify for Medicaid get health insurance for their children. The President vetoed several SCHIP bills but Congress was unable to get the votes needed for an override. CCAGW will remain vigilant to make sure that more control of health-care decisions is not turned over to politicians and bureaucrats.

In the House, there were three “Taxpayer Super Heroes” with a grade of 100 percent: Reps. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas), and F. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.). There were 59 “Taxpayer Heroes” with a grade of 80 percent or above. In 2006, there was one “Taxpayer Super Hero” and 40 “Taxpayer Heroes” so there was an improvement. On the lower end of the scale, there were two House members, both Democrats, who received a score of zero in 2007. In 2006, there were nine members with a zero rating.

CCAGW also broke down ratings based on party affiliation and membership in the two fiscally conservative groups, the Republican Study Committee and the Blue Dog Democrats. The average scores were: House Republicans—60 percent, up 14 percentage points from their grade of 46 percent in 2006; House Democrats—5 percent, down 4 percentage points from their 9 percent score in 2006; House Republican Study Committee—73 percent, up 17 percentage points from their 56 percent score in 2006; and House Blue Dog Democrats—11 percent, down 9 percentage points from their 20 percent score in 2006.

The Senate was a road block to big spending bills that were sent over from the House so from that perspective, taxpayers were saved from a worse fate. Another important victory was the Senate’s role in securing a one-year adjustment for the alternative minimum tax (AMT) in order to exempt 21 million middle-class taxpayers from receiving a tax increase. The Senate, due to the close ratio between Democrats and Republicans, insisted that there be no tax increase elsewhere to “pay for” the AMT exemption. This is the right course to take as the AMT was implemented in 1969 to prevent 155 wealthy taxpayers from using provisions in the tax code to avoid paying taxes. The law was never indexed for inflation, so the AMT subjects more taxpayers to a tax increase every year.

In the Senate for 2006, there were no Taxpayer Super Heroes and unfortunately, that did not change for 2007. However, Sens. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), Jim DeMint (R-S.C.), and John Ensign (R-Nev.) came close with scores of 97 percent. On the other end of the scale, 13 senators had a zero rating.

In spite of a brighter focus on wasteful spending, more transparency, and a growing effort to stop earmarks that is being pushed by some members of Congress and watchdog groups, taxpayers need to be concerned about future spending, especially with respect to entitlements. While earmarks cost taxpayers \$17.2 billion for 11,610 projects in the fiscal 2008 appropriations bills, the amount still represents a small portion of the budget. One only needs to review the Budget Resolution Conference Reports passed in 2007 and 2008 to see where this Congress wants to go—more taxes, more spending, and higher deficits. Taxpayers would be wise to hang onto their wallets and demand that Congress refocus its priorities and cut wasteful spending.

2007 House Votes

1 House Vote 72: Fiscal 2007 Continuing Resolution—H.J. Res. 20. Passage of the joint resolution to provide \$463.5 billion in continuing appropriations through Sept. 30, 2007, for all federal departments and agencies whose fiscal 2007 appropriations bills have not been enacted. Passed 286-140. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

2 House Vote 133: Clean Water Revolving Fund—Davis-Bacon Requirement, H.R. 720. Rep. Baker, R-La., amendment to strike a provision in the bill that would apply Davis-Bacon requirements to wastewater construction projects financed with non-federal funds. Rejected 140-280. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

3 House Vote 133: Clean Water Revolving Fund—Davis-Bacon Requirement, H.R. 720. Rep. Baker, R-La., amendment to strike a provision in the bill that would apply Davis-Bacon requirements to wastewater construction projects financed with non-federal funds. Rejected 140-280. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

4 House Vote 211: Fiscal 2008 Budget Resolution—Republican Substitute, H. Con. Res. 99. Rep. Ryan, R-Wis., substitute amendment to set discretionary spending at \$1.1 trillion for fiscal 2008. Rejected 160-268. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

5 House Vote 290: National Science Foundation Reauthorization—Across-the-Board Cut, H.R. 1867. Rep. Campbell, R-Calif., amendment to cut funding by 1 percent across the board. Rejected 115-301. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

6 House Vote 291: NSF Reauthorization - Across-the-Board Cut, H.R. 1867. Rep. Garrett, R-N.J., amendment to cut funding by 0.5 percent across the board. Rejected 126-292. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

7 House Vote 336: Fiscal 2007 Agriculture Supplemental—H.R. 2207. Passage of the bill to provide \$4.5 billion in fiscal 2007 emergency spending. Passed 302-120. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

8 House Vote 377: Fiscal 2008 Budget Resolution—Conference Report, S. Con. Res. 21. Adoption of the conference report to allow up to \$954.1 billion in discretionary spending and \$1.8 trillion in mandatory spending outlays in fiscal 2008. Adopted 214-209. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

9 House Vote 520: Fiscal 2008 Energy-Water Appropriations—Across-the-Board Cut, H.R. 2641. Rep. Musgrave, R-Colo., amendment to cut funding by 0.5 percent across the board. Rejected 166-267. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

10 House Vote 524: Fiscal 2008 Energy-Water Appropriations—Across-the-Board Cut, H.R. 2641. Rep. Price, R-Ga., amendment to cut funding by 1 percent across the board. Rejected 158-275. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

11 House Vote 538: Fiscal 2008 State-Foreign Operations Appropriations—Across-the-Board Cut, H.R. 2764. Rep. Price, R-Ga., amendment to cut funding by 1 percent across the board. Rejected 168-252. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

12 House Vote 539: Fiscal 2008 State-Foreign Operations Appropriations—Across-the-Board Cut, H.R. 2764. Rep. Musgrave, R-Colo., amendment to cut funding by 0.5 percent across the board. Rejected 179-241. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

13 House Vote 559: Fiscal 2008 Interior-Environment Appropriations—Clover Bend Historic Site, H.R. 2643. Rep. Hensarling, R-Texas, amendment to eliminate funding for the Clover Bend Historic Site in Arkansas. Rejected 98-331. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

14 House Vote 560: Fiscal 2008 Interior-Environment Appropriations—St. Joseph's College Theatre Renovation, H.R. 2643. Rep. Hensarling, R-Texas, amendment to eliminate funding for the St. Joseph's College Theatre renovation in Indiana. Rejected 97-328. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

15 House Vote 561: Fiscal 2008 Interior-Environment Appropriations—Maverick Concert Hall Preservation, H.R. 2643. Rep. Hensarling, R-Texas, amendment to eliminate funding for the Maverick Concert Hall preservation in New York. Rejected 114-316. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

16 House Vote 562: Fiscal 2008 Interior-Environment Appropriations—Bremerton Public Library Restoration, H.R. 2643. Rep. Hensarling, R-Texas, amendment to eliminate funding for the Bremerton Public Library restoration in Washington. Rejected 98-333. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

17 House Vote 563: Fiscal 2008 Interior-Environment Appropriations—Tongass National Forest, H.R. 2643. Rep. Andrews, D-N.J., amendment to eliminate funding for road development in the Tongass National Forest in Alaska for harvesting timber by private entities or individuals. Adopted 283-145. THE TAXPAYERS WON.

18 House Vote 564: Fiscal 2008 Interior-Environment Appropriations—National Endowment for the Arts, H.R. 2643. Rep. Brown-Waite, R-Fla., amendment to cut funding for the National Endowment for the Arts by \$32 million. Rejected 137-285. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

19 House Vote 565: Fiscal 2008 Interior-Environment Appropriations—Wetzel County Courthouse, H.R. 2643. Rep. Campbell, R-Calif., amendment to eliminate funding for the Wetzel County Courthouse in West Virginia. Rejected 104-323. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

2007 House Votes (continued on page 8)

2007 House Votes (continued from page 7)

20 House Vote 566: Fiscal 2008 Interior-Environment Appropriations—Anadromous Fish Research, H.R. 2643. Rep. Campbell, R-Calif., amendment to eliminate funding for equipment for anadromous fish research. Rejected 97-330. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

21 House Vote 567: Fiscal 2008 Interior-Environment Appropriations—W.A. Young and Sons Foundry, H.R. 2643. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the W.A. Young and Sons Foundry in Pennsylvania. Rejected 104-328. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

22 House Vote 568: Fiscal 2008 Interior-Environment Appropriations—Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters, H.R. 2643. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the Ohio Association of Professional Firefighters to renovate a hall in Ohio. Rejected 66-364. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

23 House Vote 569: Fiscal 2008 Interior-Environment Appropriations—Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Route, H.R. 2643. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for projects related to the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Route. Rejected 86-343. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

24 House Vote 571: Fiscal 2008 Interior-Environment Appropriations—Across-the-Board Cut, H.R. 2643. Rep. Price, R-Ga., amendment to cut funding by 1 percent across the board. Rejected 178-254. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

25 House Vote 572: Fiscal 2008 Interior-Environment Appropriations—Across-the-Board Cut, H.R. 2643. Rep. Musgrave, R-Colo., amendment to cut funding by 0.5 percent across the board. Rejected 193-238. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

26 House Vote 575: Fiscal 2008 Interior-Environment Appropriations—National Endowment for the Arts, H.R. 2643. Rep. Lamborn, R-Colo., amendment to eliminate funding for the National Endowment for the Arts. Rejected 97-335. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

27 House Vote 577: Fiscal 2008 Interior-Environment Appropriations—Oil Shale Reserves, H.R. 2643. Revote on the Rep. Udall, D-Colo., amendment to prevent commercial leasing for oil shale reserves on public land. Adopted 216-210. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

28 House Vote 586: Fiscal 2008 Financial Services Appropriations—Converting Federal Job Functions, H.R. 2829. Rep. Price, R-Ga., amendment to strike a provision that would restrict the government's ability to contract out current federal job functions. Rejected 158-268. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

29 House Vote 590: Fiscal 2008 Financial Services Appropriations—Grace Johnstown Area Regional Industries Incubator, H.R. 2829. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the Grace Johnstown Area Regional Industries Incubator and Workforce Development program in Pennsylvania. Rejected 87-335. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

30 House Vote 591: Fiscal 2008 Financial Services Appropriations—Barracks Row Project, H.R. 2829. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for Barracks Row Main Street, Inc., in Washington, D.C. Rejected 60-361. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

31 House Vote 592: Fiscal 2008 Financial Services Appropriations—San Francisco Planning and Urban Research, H.R. 2829. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the San Francisco Planning and Urban Research Association's SPUR urban center. Rejected 102-317. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

32 House Vote 593: Fiscal 2008 Financial Services Appropriations—Mitchell County Development Foundation, H.R. 2829. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the Mitchell County Development Foundation Inc., for the "Home of the Perfect Christmas Tree" project. Adopted 249-174. THE TAXPAYERS WON.

33 House Vote 594: Fiscal 2008 Financial Services Appropriations—West Virginia University Research Corporation, H.R. 2829. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the West Virginia University Research Corporation's renovation of a small-business incubator. Rejected 101-325. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

34 House Vote 595: Fiscal 2008 Financial Services Appropriations—Abraham Lincoln National Airport Commission, H.R. 2829. Rep. Campbell, R-Calif., amendment to eliminate funding for the Abraham Lincoln National Airport Commission. Rejected 107-318. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

35 House Vote 597: Financial Services Appropriations—Member Requested Earmarks, H.R. 2829. Rep. Campbell, R-Calif., amendment that would bar the use of funds in the bill to fund 148 requested earmarks from Members of Congress but leave in place 17 earmarks requested by the President. Rejected 48-372. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

36 House Vote 601: Fiscal 2008 Financial Services Appropriations—Across-the-Board Cut, H.R. 2829. Rep. Price, R-Ga., amendment to cut funding by 1 percent across the board. Rejected 191-233. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

37 House Vote 602: Fiscal 2008 Financial Services Appropriations—Across-the-Board Cut, H.R. 2829. Rep. Musgrave, R-Colo., amendment to cut funding by 0.5 percent across the board. Rejected 205-220. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

38 House Vote 636: Fiscal 2008 Energy-Water Appropriations—Center for Instrumented Critical Infrastructure, H.R. 2641. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the Center for Instrumented Critical Infrastructure in Pennsylvania. Rejected 98-326. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

39 House Vote 637: Fiscal 2008 Energy-Water Appropriations—South Carolina Historically Black Colleges and Universities, H.R. 2641. Rep. Hensarling, R-Texas, amendment to eliminate funding for the South Carolina Historically Black Colleges and Universities Science and Technology Initiative. Rejected 70-357. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

40 House Vote 638: Fiscal 2008 Energy-Water Appropriations—Emmanuel College Center for Science Partnership, H.R. 2641. Rep. Hensarling, R-Texas, amendment to eliminate funding for the Emmanuel College Center for Science Partnership in Massachusetts. Rejected 79-337. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

41 House Vote 639: Fiscal 2008 Energy-Water Appropriations—Nano-Structured Fuel Cell, H.R. 2641. Rep. Hensarling, R-Texas, amendment to eliminate funding for nano-structured fuel cell membrane electrode assembly in California. Rejected 81-348. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

42 House Vote 640: Fiscal 2008 Energy-Water Appropriations—Member-Requested Projects, H.R. 2641. Rep. Campbell, R-Calif., amendment to eliminate funding for earmarked projects. Rejected 39-388. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

43 House Vote 654: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—Alaska Native Education Equity Program, H.R. 3043. Rep. Garrett, R-N.J., amendment to cut \$34 million from school improvement programs and eliminate funding for the Alaska Native Education Equity program. Rejected 74-352. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

44 House Vote 661: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—AmeriCorps, H.R. 3043. Rep. Shadegg, R-Ariz., amendment to cut funding for the AmeriCorps program by \$34 million. Rejected 96-334. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

45 House Vote 662: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—Corporation for Public Broadcasting, H.R. 3043. Rep. Lamborn, R-Colo., amendment to eliminate funding for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Rejected 72-357. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

46 House Vote 663: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—Earmarks Elimination, H.R. 3043. Rep. Obey, D-Wis., amendment to strike all earmarks from the bill. Rejected 53-369. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

47 House Vote 664: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—Exploratorium in San Francisco, H.R. 3043. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for a project at the Exploratorium in San Francisco. Rejected 89-341. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

48 House Vote 667: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—Entertainment Industry Craft and Technician Training, H.R. 3043. Rep. Hensarling, R-Texas, amendment to eliminate funding for the On Location Entertainment Industry Craft and Technician Training project at West Los Angeles College. Rejected 114-316. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

49 House Vote 668: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—American Ballet Theatre, H.R. 3043. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz. amendment to eliminate funding for the American Ballet Theatre in New York City for educational activities. Rejected 118-312. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

50 House Vote 669: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—South Carolina Aquarium, H.R. 3043. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the South Carolina Aquarium. Rejected 70-360. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

51 House Vote 670: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—Kansas Regional Prisons Museum, H.R. 3043. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the Kansas Regional Prisons Museum. Rejected 112-317. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

52 House Vote 671: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—Corporation for Jefferson's Poplar Forest, H.R. 3043. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the Corporation for Jefferson's Poplar Forest. Rejected 68-360. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

53 House Vote 674: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—Union Recognition, H.R. 3043. Rep. Souder, R-Ind., amendment to bar the use of funds in the bill by the National Labor Relations Board to recognize a union as an exclusive employee representative if it has not been chosen in a secret-ballot election. Rejected 167-255. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

54 House Vote 675: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—Medicare Advantage Program, H.R. 3043. Rep. Camp, R-Mich., amendment to bar the use of funds in the bill by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to implement any policy that would prohibit a Medicare beneficiary from enrolling in the Medicare Advantage program. Rejected 192-228. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

55 House Vote 678: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—Charles B. Rangel Center for Public Service, H.R. 3043. Rep. Campbell, R-Calif., amendment to eliminate funding for the Charles B. Rangel Center for Public Service at the City College of New York. Rejected 108-316. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

2007 House Votes (continued on page 10)

2007 House Votes (continued from page 9)

56 House Vote 679: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—American Jazz Museum, H.R. 3043. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for a project at the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City, Mo. Rejected 96-327. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

57 House Vote 681: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—Across-the-Board Cut, H.R. 3043. Rep. Price, R-Ga., amendment to cut spending by 1 percent across the board. Rejected 165-256. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

58 House Vote 682: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—Across-the-Board Cut, H.R. 3043. Rep. Musgrave, R-Colo., amendment to cut spending by 0.5 percent across the board. Rejected 177-245. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

59 House Vote 683: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—Across-the-Board Cut, H.R. 3043. Rep. Campbell, R-Calif., amendment to cut spending by 0.25 percent across the board. Rejected 177-245. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

60 House Vote 697: Fiscal 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations—Amtrak Sunset Limited Route, H.R. 3074. Rep. Sessions, R-Texas, amendment to eliminate funding for the Sunset Limited, which is the Amtrak route with the highest loss. Rejected 139-283. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

61 House Vote 698: Fiscal 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations—Belmont Complex, H.R. 3074. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the Belmont Complex in Kittanning, Pa. Rejected 87-335. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

62 House Vote 699: Fiscal 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations—North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, H.R. 3074. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in Wausau, Wis. Rejected 68-356. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

63 House Vote 700: Fiscal 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations—National Mule and Packers Museum, H.R. 3074. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the National Mule and Packers Museum. Rejected 69-352. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

64 House Vote 701: Fiscal 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations—Rails-to-Trails Program, H.R. 3074. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to limit funding for the Friends of Cheat Rails-to-Trails Program in West Virginia. Rejected 81-342. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

65 House Vote 702: Fiscal 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations—Houston Zoo, H.R. 3074. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to limit funding for the Houston Zoo. Rejected 77-347. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

66 House Vote 705: Fiscal 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations—Edmonds Center for the Arts, H.R. 3074. Rep. Hensarling, R-Texas, amendment to eliminate funding for the Edmonds Center for the Arts in Edmonds, Wash. Rejected 97-327. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

67 House Vote 706: Fiscal 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations—Parking Facilities, H.R. 3074. Rep. Hensarling, R-Texas, amendment to eliminate funding for parking facilities. Rejected 86-338. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

68 House Vote 709: Fiscal 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations—Across-the-Board Cut, H.R. 3074. Rep. Price, R-Ga., amendment to cut spending by 1 percent across the board. Rejected 177-250. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

69 House Vote 710: Fiscal 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations—Across-the-Board Cut, H.R. 3074. Rep. Musgrave, R-Colo., amendment to cut spending by 0.5 across the board. Rejected 198-229. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

70 House Vote 735: Fiscal 2008 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations—Lobster Institute, H.R. 3093. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the Lobster Institute at the University of Maine. Rejected 87-328. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

71 House Vote 736: Fiscal 2008 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations—Shellfish Research, H.R. 3093. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to limit funding for the East Coast Shellfish Research Institute. Rejected 77-337. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

72 House Vote 741: Fiscal 2008 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations—Across-the-Board Cut, H.R. 3093. Rep. Musgrave, R-Colo., amendment to cut spending by 0.5 percent across the board. Rejected 186-235. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

73 House Vote 742: Fiscal 2008 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations—Across-the-Board Cut, H.R. 3093. Rep. Campbell, R-Calif., amendment to cut spending by 0.05 percent across the board. Rejected 192-228. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

74 House Vote 747: Farm Bill Reauthorization—Commodity Payments, H.R. 2419. Rep. Kind, D-Wis., amendment to bar farmers making more than \$250,000 in annual adjusted gross income from receiving federal subsidies. Rejected 117-309. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

75 House Vote 756: Farm Bill Reauthorization—Passage, H.R. 2419. Passage of the bill to authorize \$286 billion from fiscal 2008 through fiscal 2012 for federal farm programs. Passed 231-191. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

76 House Vote 790: Water Resources Development—Conference Report, H.R. 1495. Adoption of the conference report on the bill to authorize \$21 billion for projects and studies by the Army Corps of Engineers. Adopted 381-40. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

77 House Vote 803: Fiscal 2008 Agriculture Appropriations—Competitive Sourcing, H.R. 3161. Rep. Sessions, R-Texas, amendment to eliminate restrictions on competitive sourcing. Rejected 168-254. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

78 House Vote 809: Fiscal 2008 Agriculture Appropriations—Catfish Pathogen Genomic Project, H.R. 3161. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the Catfish Pathogen Genomic Project in Auburn, Ala. Rejected 74-357. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

79 House Vote 810: Fiscal 2008 Agriculture Appropriations—Grape Genetics Research, H.R. 3161. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for grape genetics research in Geneva, N.Y. Rejected 76-353. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

80 House Vote 811: Fiscal 2008 Agriculture Appropriations—Alternative Uses of Tobacco, H.R. 3161. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for alternative uses of tobacco in Maryland. Rejected 94-337. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

81 House Vote 812: Fiscal 2008 Agriculture Appropriations—Ruminant Nutrition Consortium, H.R. 3161. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the Ruminant Nutrition Consortium. Rejected 74-355. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

82 House Vote 813: Fiscal 2008 Agriculture Appropriations—Wood Utilization Grant, H.R. 3161. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for wood utilization in seven states. Rejected 68-363. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

83 House Vote 835: Energy Conservation Tax—Passage, H.R. 2776. Passage of the bill that would authorize \$16.1 billion in energy-related tax incentives. Passed 221-189. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

84 House Vote 839: Fiscal 2008 Defense Appropriations—Presidio Trust, H.R. 3222. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to limit funding for the Presidio Trust National Park in San Francisco, Calif. Rejected 94-311. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

85 House Vote 842: Fiscal 2008 Defense Appropriations—Paint Shield, H.R. 3222. Rep. Campbell, R-Calif., amendment to eliminate funding for the “Paint Shield for Protecting People from Microbial Threats.” Rejected 91-317. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

86 House Vote 843: Fiscal 2008 Defense Appropriations—Doyle Center for Manufacturing Technology, H.R. 3222. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the Doyle Center for Manufacturing Technology in Pittsburgh, Pa. Rejected 98-312. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

87 House Vote 844: Fiscal 2008 Defense Appropriations—Lewis Center for Education Research, H.R. 3222. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the Lewis Center for Education Research in Apple Valley, Calif. Rejected 57-353. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

88 House Vote 845: Fiscal 2008 Defense Appropriations—National Drug Intelligence Center, H.R. 3222. Rep. Flake, R-Ariz., amendment to eliminate funding for the National Drug Intelligence Center in Johnstown, Pa. Rejected 109-301. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

89 House Vote 921: National Flood Insurance Program—Passage, H.R. 3121. Passage of the bill that would reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program and cover wind and flood risk in one policy. Passed 263-146. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

90 House Vote 936: Inspector General System—Recommit, H.R. 928. Rep. T. Davis, R-Va., motion to recommit the bill with instructions that it require inspectors general to submit annual reports to Congress, along with legislative proposals, on any program and agency savings that would reduce the federal deficit. Agreed 274-144. THE TAXPAYERS WON.

91 House Vote 958: Affordable Housing Fund—Passage, H.R. 2895. Passage of the bill that would establish an affordable housing trust fund to provide assistance for the construction, rehabilitation and preservation of affordable housing for low-income families. Passed 264-148. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

92 House Vote 960: Private Tax Collection—Passage, H.R. 3056. Passage of the bill that would rescind the authority of the IRS to enter into contracts with private companies to collect debts. Passed 232-173. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

93 House Vote 996: National Heritage Areas—Passage, H.R. 1483. Passage of the bill that would establish six new national heritage areas and increase spending to \$15 million for nine existing national heritage areas. Passed 291-122. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

94 House Vote 1000: Native Hawaiian Sovereignty—Passage, H.R. 505. Passage of the bill that would grant sovereign status to Native Hawaiians, similar to that of mainland indigenous tribes. Passed 261-153. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

95 House Vote 1009: Children’s Health Insurance—Passage, H.R. 3963. Passage of the bill that would reauthorize the State Children’s Health Insurance Program at nearly \$60 billion over five years, expand the program by \$35 billion, and extend it to families earning up to three times the federal poverty level. Passed 265-142. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

2007 House Votes (continued on page 12)

2007 House Votes (continued from page 11)

96 House Vote 1060: U.S.-Peruvian Free Trade Agreement—Passage, H.R. 3688. Passage of the bill that would implement a free trade agreement between the United States and Peru. Passed 285-132. **THE TAXPAYERS WON.**

97 House Vote 1074: Natural Catastrophe Insurance—Passage, H.R. 3355. Passage of the bill that would authorize \$120 million over six years for a National Catastrophe Risk Consortium to assist state reinsurance entities and the private market to coordinate available reinsurance contracts. Passed 258-155. **THE TAXPAYERS LOST.**

98 House Vote 1081: Alternative Minimum Tax Adjustment—Passage, H.R. 3996. Passage of the bill that would provide a one-year adjustment to exempt an additional 21 million taxpayers from paying the alternative minimum tax on income from 2007 and pay for it with offsetting tax increases. Passed 216-193. **THE TAXPAYERS LOST.**

99 House Vote 1140: Energy Policy—Motion to Concur, H.R. 6. Rep. Dingell, D-Mich., motion to increase corporate average fuel economy standards (CAFE) standards and require 36 billion gallons of biofuels to be produced and used annually by 2022. Agreed 235-181. **THE TAXPAYERS LOST.**

100 House Vote 1171: Fiscal 2008 Omnibus Appropriations—Motion to Concur, H.R. 2764. Rep. Obey, D-Wis., motion to provide \$473.5 billion in discretionary spending in fiscal 2008 for all federal departments and agencies whose regular fiscal 2008 spending bills have not been enacted. Passed 253-154. **THE TAXPAYERS LOST.**

Ratings Categories

0% - 19%	Hostile
20% - 39%	Unfriendly
40% - 59%	Lukewarm
60% - 79%	Friendly
80% - 99%	Taxpayer Hero
100%	Taxpayer Super Hero

Vote Comparisons
and descriptions provided by
Congressional Quarterly Floor Votes
edited by *CCAGW*.

Averages	Highest and Lowest Scores ¹
<p>House of Representatives <i>110th, 1st Session</i></p> <p>Total House: 30%</p> <p>Democrats: 5%</p> <p>Blue Dog Democrats: 11%</p> <p>Republicans: 60%</p> <p>Republican Study Committee: 73%</p>	<p>House Highest</p> <p>Democrats: Jim Cooper (D-Tenn.) 69%</p> <p>Republicans: Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas) Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) F. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.) 100%</p>
	<p>House Lowest</p> <p>Democrats: Neil Abercrombie (D-Hawaii) John Sarbanes (D-Md.) 0%</p> <p>Republicans: Ray LaHood (R-Ill.) 11%</p>
<p>U. S. Senate <i>110th, 1st Session</i></p> <p>Total: 36%</p> <p>Republicans: 67%</p> <p>Democrats: 5%</p>	<p>Senate Highest</p> <p>Democrats: Russ Feingold (D-Wis.) 34%</p> <p>Republicans: Richard Burr (R-N.C.) Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) John Ensign (R-Nev.) 97%</p>
	<p>Senate Lowest</p> <p>Democrats: Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) Joe Biden (D-Del.) Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) Carl Levin (D-Mich.) Kent Conrad (D-N.D.) Harry Reid (D-Nev.) Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) 0%</p> <p>Republicans: Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) 17%</p>
<p>State Delegations</p> <p>Highest</p> <p>South Carolina 72% Arizona 70% Oklahoma 67%</p> <p>Lowest</p> <p>Hawaii 0% North Dakota 2% Vermont 2%</p>	

¹ Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Rep. Robert Latta (R-Ohio) received a score of 100 percent but were only present for 11 of the 35 Senate votes and 1 of the 100 House votes, respectively, that CCAGW tallied. Therefore, they were not eligible for the Taxpayer Super Hero Award. Sen. Tim Johnson (D-S.D.) and Reps. J. Davis (R-Va.), Millender-McDonald (D-Calif.), Norwood (R-Ga.), Richardson (D-Calif.), and Tsongas (D-Mass.) all had zero ratings but were present for less than half of the votes CCAGW tallied. Therefore, they were not included in the list of lowest scores.

House Ratings

	2007	Lifetime
Alabama		
4 Aderholt (R)	37%	59%
6 Bachus, S. (R)	48%	71%
1 Bonner (R)	39%	52%
5 Cramer (D)	4%	33%
7 Davis, A. (D)	3%	13%
2 Everett (R)	38%	67%
3 Rogers, Mike D. (R)	39%	49%

	2007	Lifetime
Alaska		
AL Young, D. (R)	31%	54%

	2007	Lifetime
Arizona		
6 Flake (R)	100%	97%
2 Franks, T. (R)	98%	94%
8 Giffords (D)	11%	11%
7 Grijalva (D)	1%	5%
5 Mitchell (D)	23%	23%
4 Pastor (D)	1%	10%
1 Renzi (R)	19%	46%
3 Shadegg (R)	98%	95%

	2007	Lifetime
Arkansas		
1 Berry (D)	2%	24%
3 Boozman (R)	46%	60%
4 Ross (D)	4%	16%
2 Snyder (D)	2%	13%

	2007	Lifetime
California		
43 Baca (D)	1%	9%
31 Becerra (D)	2%	10%
28 Berman (D)	3%	15%
50 Bilbray (R)	84%	80%
45 Bono Mack (R)	37%	57%
44 Calvert (R)	41%	60%
48 Campbell (R)	99%	80%
23 Capps (D)	3%	14%
18 Cardoza (D)	4%	19%
20 Costa (D)	4%	15%
53 Davis, S. (D)	4%	10%
4 Doolittle (R)	31%	70%
26 Dreier (R)	63%	73%
14 Eshoo (D)	5%	19%
17 Farr (D)	4%	11%
51 Filner (D)	2%	10%
24 Gallegly (R)	52%	67%
36 Harman (D)	5%	30%
2 Herger (R)	69%	77%
15 Honda (D)	3%	7%
52 Hunter (R)	53%	68%
49 Issa (R)	86%	67%
12 Lantos (D)	2%	16%
9 Lee (D)	3%	8%
41 Lewis, Jerry (R)	26%	48%

	2007	Lifetime
California (cont.)		
16 Lofgren (D)	6%	14%
3 Lungren (R)	79%	75%
5 Matsui (D)	3%	10%
22 McCarthy, K. (R)	76%	76%
25 McKeon (R)	50%	63%
11 McNerney (D)	8%	8%
7 Miller, George (D)	4%	21%
42 Miller, Gary (R)	58%	78%
38 Napolitano (D)	1%	6%
21 Nunes (R)	78%	58%
8 Pelosi (D)	14%	12%
19 Radanovich (R)	72%	73%
37 Richardson, L (D)	0%	0%
46 Rohrabacher (R)	91%	92%
34 Roybal-Allard (D)	1%	9%
40 Royce (R)	96%	93%
39 Sanchez, Linda (D)	3%	5%
47 Sanchez, Loretta (D)	3%	14%
29 Schiff (D)	4%	8%
27 Sherman (D)	2%	13%
32 Solis (D)	2%	5%
13 Stark (D)	7%	18%
10 Tauscher (D)	4%	17%
1 Thompson, M. (D)	3%	9%
35 Waters (D)	4%	11%
33 Watson (D)	1%	6%
30 Waxman (D)	7%	18%
6 Woolsey (D)	3%	12%

	2007	Lifetime
Colorado		
1 DeGette (D)	4%	12%
5 Lamborn (R)	98%	98%
4 Musgrave (R)	93%	89%
7 Perlmutter (D)	5%	5%
3 Salazar, J. (D)	3%	12%
6 Tancredo (R)	92%	92%
2 Udall, M. (D)	4%	15%

	2007	Lifetime
Connecticut		
2 Courtney (D)	3%	3%
3 DeLauro (D)	1%	12%
1 Larson, J. (D)	3%	10%
5 Murphy, C. (D)	3%	3%
4 Shays (R)	28%	71%

	2007	Lifetime
Delaware		
AL Castle (R)	48%	64%

	2007	Lifetime
Florida		
9 Bilirakis (R)	54%	54%
2 Boyd, A. (D)	5%	25%
3 Brown, C. (D)	4%	9%
5 Brown-Waite, G. (R)	61%	67%

	2007	Lifetime
Florida (cont.)		
13 Buchanan (R)	63%	63%
11 Castor (D)	3%	3%
4 Crenshaw (R)	44%	56%
21 Diaz-Balart, L. (R)	37%	55%
25 Diaz-Balart, M. (R)	42%	67%
24 Feeney (R)	96%	95%
23 Hastings, A. (D)	1%	8%
8 Keller (R)	80%	80%
22 Klein, R. (D)	5%	5%
14 Mack (R)	90%	76%
16 Mahoney (D)	16%	16%
17 Meek, K. (D)	3%	8%
7 Mica (R)	72%	72%
1 Miller, J. (R)	96%	91%
12 Putnam (R)	70%	62%
18 Ros-Lehtinen (R)	30%	64%
6 Stearns (R)	87%	85%
20 Wasserman Schultz (D)	2%	3%
15 Weldon (R)	56%	68%
19 Wexler (D)	3%	8%
10 Young, C.W. (R)	43%	64%

	2007	Lifetime
Georgia		
12 Barrow (D)	19%	23%
2 Bishop, S. (D)	2%	21%
10 Broun (R)	97%	97%
9 Deal (R)	97%	80%
11 Gingrey (R)	82%	73%
4 Johnson, H. (D)	2%	2%
1 Kingston (R)	73%	75%
5 Lewis, John (D)	3%	13%
7 Linder (R)	95%	84%
8 Marshall (D)	22%	25%
10 Norwood (R)	0%	73%
6 Price, T. (R)	95%	89%
13 Scott, D. (D)	2%	16%
3 Westmoreland (R)	97%	90%

	2007	Lifetime
Hawaii		
1 Abercrombie (D)	0%	10%
2 Hirono (D)	1%	1%

	2007	Lifetime
Idaho		
1 Sali (R)	93%	93%
2 Simpson (R)	25%	55%

	2007	Lifetime
Illinois		
8 Bean (D)	30%	46%
13 Biggert (R)	63%	64%
12 Costello (D)	2%	26%
7 Davis, Danny (D)	3%	8%
5 Emanuel (D)	4%	7%
4 Gutierrez (D)	2%	16%

2007 House Votes (continued on page 14)

House Ratings

	2007	Lifetime
Illinois (cont.)		
17 Hare (D)	2%	2%
14 Hastert (R)	77%	83%
2 Jackson, J. (D)	2%	7%
15 Johnson (R)	39%	45%
10 Kirk (R)	33%	55%
18 LaHood (R)	11%	49%
3 Lipinski (D)	2%	28%
16 Manzullo (R)	49%	82%
6 Roskam (R)	81%	81%
1 Rush (D)	2%	13%
9 Schakowsky (D)	3%	7%
19 Shimkus (R)	75%	72%
11 Weller (R)	29%	63%
Indiana		
5 Burton (R)	84%	78%
4 Buyer (R)	73%	71%
7 Carson (D)	1%	8%
2 Donnelly (D)	18%	18%
8 Ellsworth (D)	18%	18%
9 Hill (D)	16%	18%
6 Pence (R)	98%	93%
3 Souder (R)	65%	72%
1 Visclosky (D)	1%	21%
Iowa		
3 Boswell (D)	4%	22%
1 Braley (D)	3%	3%
5 King, S. (R)	91%	87%
4 Latham (R)	28%	63%
2 Loebsack (D)	3%	3%
Kansas		
2 Boyda, N. (D)	4%	4%
3 Moore, D. (D)	4%	22%
1 Moran, Jerry (R)	41%	67%
4 Tiahrt (R)	41%	72%
Kentucky		
6 Chandler (D)	4%	9%
4 Davis, G. (R)	55%	59%
2 Lewis, R. (R)	43%	67%
5 Rogers, H. (R)	40%	58%
1 Whitfield (R)	37%	63%
3 Yarmuth (D)	4%	4%
Louisiana		
5 Alexander, R. (R)	31%	38%
6 Baker (R)	40%	65%
7 Boustany (R)	22%	37%
2 Jefferson (D)	3%	15%
1J Indal (R)	76%	74%
4 McCrery (R)	44%	65%
3 Melancon (D)	11%	20%
Maine		
1 Allen (D)	3%	9%
2 Michaud (D)	2%	9%

	2007	Lifetime
Maryland		
6 Bartlett (R)	58%	79%
7 Cummings (D)	2%	8%
1 Gilchrest (R)	13%	57%
5 Hoyer (D)	3%	11%
2 Ruppberger (D)	1%	13%
3 Sarbanes (D)	0%	0%
8 Van Hollen (D)	3%	11%
4 Wynn (D)	3%	14%
Massachusetts		
8 Capuano (D)	3%	8%
10 Delahunt (D)	4%	11%
4 Frank, B. (D)	6%	23%
9 Lynch (D)	3%	8%
7 Markey (D)	4%	17%
3 McGovern (D)	3%	7%
5 Meehan (D)	8%	28%
2 Neal (D)	3%	18%
1 Olver (D)	2%	17%
6 Tierney (D)	4%	15%
5 Tsongas (D)	0%	0%
Michigan		
4 Camp (R)	64%	72%
14 Conyers (D)	1%	15%
15 Dingell (D)	4%	11%
3 Ehlers (R)	47%	61%
2 Hoekstra (R)	52%	85%
5 Kildee (D)	1%	17%
13 Kilpatrick (D)	2%	6%
9 Knollenberg (R)	33%	61%
12 Levin, S. (D)	3%	17%
11 McCotter (R)	36%	55%
10 Miller, C. (R)	36%	48%
8 Rogers, Mike (R)	65%	68%
1 Stupak (D)	2%	17%
6 Upton (R)	56%	75%
7 Walberg (R)	90%	90%
Minnesota		
6 Bachmann (R)	95%	95%
5 Ellison (D)	3%	3%
2 Kline, J. (R)	95%	75%
4 McCollum (D)	2%	8%
8 Oberstar (D)	2%	15%
7 Peterson, C. (D)	2%	38%
3 Ramstad (R)	73%	84%
1 Walz (D)	2%	2%
Mississippi		
3 Pickering (R)	36%	61%
4 Taylor (D)	29%	52%
2 Thompson, B. (D)	1%	10%
Wicker (R)	37%	61%
Missouri		
2 Akin (R)	95%	90%
7 Blunt (R)	58%	67%
3 Carnahan (D)	2%	5%
1 Clay (D)	2%	14%

	2007	Lifetime
Missouri (cont.)		
5 Cleaver (D)	3%	5%
8 Emerson (R)	21%	57%
6 Graves (R)	76%	70%
9 Hulshof (R)	48%	67%
4 Skelton (D)	6%	29%
Montana		
AL Rehberg (R)	31%	56%
Nebraska		
1 Fortenberry (R)	50%	47%
3 Smith, Adrian (R)	87%	87%
2 Terry (R)	86%	79%
Nevada		
1 Berkley (D)	2%	20%
2 Heller (R)	95%	95%
3 Porter (R)	22%	42%
New Hampshire		
2 Hodes (D)	3%	3%
1 Shea-Porter (D)	3%	3%
New Jersey		
1 Andrews (D)	3%	29%
7 Ferguson (R)	15%	51%
11 Frelinghuysen (R)	34%	58%
5 Garrett (R)	99%	95%
12 Holt (D)	2%	15%
2 LoBiondo (R)	13%	59%
6 Pallone (D)	2%	26%
8 Pascrell (D)	3%	12%
10 Payne (D)	1%	15%
9 Rothman (D)	2%	11%
3 Saxton (R)	19%	56%
13 Sires (D)	3%	2%
4 Smith, C. (R)	14%	53%
New Mexico		
2 Pearce (R)	84%	63%
3 Udall, T. (D)	2%	10%
1 Wilson, H. (R)	30%	53%
New York		
5 Ackerman (D)	3%	12%
24 Arcuri (D)	1%	1%
1 Bishop, T. (D)	3%	8%
11 Clarke (D)	4%	4%
7 Crowley (D)	4%	9%
17 Engel (D)	3%	7%
13 Fossella (R)	80%	80%
20 Gillibrand (D)	8%	8%
19 Hall, J. (D)	2%	2%
27 Higgins (D)	3%	8%
22 Hinchey (D)	1%	11%
2 Israel (D)	3%	16%
3 King, P. (R)	24%	4%
29 Kuhl (R)	7%	37%
18 Lowey (D)	5%	18%
14 Maloney (D)	4%	19%

	2007	Lifetime
New York (cont.)		
4 McCarthy, C. (D)	4%	20%
23 McHugh (R)	13%	54%
21 McNulty (D)	2%	17%
6 Meeks, G. (D)	4%	9%
8 Nadler (D)	2%	13%
15 Rangel (D)	3%	11%
26 Reynolds (R)	36%	58%
16 Serrano (D)	1%	11%
28 Slaughter (D)	2%	18%
10 Towns (D)	3%	13%
12 Velazquez (D)	1%	14%
25 Walsh (R)	16%	50%
9 Weiner (D)	5%	11%
North Carolina		
1 Butterfield (D)	1%	4%
6 Coble (R)	89%	83%
2 Etheridge (D)	3%	15%
5 Foxx (R)	71%	69%
8 Hayes (R)	35%	61%
3 Jones, W. (R)	40%	73%
10 McHenry (R)	84%	80%
7 McIntyre (D)	3%	30%
13 Miller, B. (D)	3%	6%
9 Myrick (R)	96%	88%
4 Price, D. (D)	2%	16%
11 Shuler (D)	20%	20%
12 Watt (D)	3%	11%
North Dakota		
AL Pomeroy (D)	4%	22%
Ohio		
8 Boehner (R)	79%	74%
1 Chabot (R)	97%	97%
7 Hobson (R)	26%	67%
4 Jordan (R)	98%	98%
9 Kaptur (D)	2%	19%
10 Kucinich (D)	4%	10%
5 Latta (R)	100%	100%
14 LaTourette (R)	19%	51%
15 Pryce, D. (R)	35%	68%
16 Regula (R)	18%	56%
17 Ryan, T. (D)	1%	8%
2 Schmidt (R)	79%	66%
18 Space (D)	5%	5%
13 Sutton (D)	2%	2%
12 Tiberi (R)	63%	70%
11 Tubbs Jones (D)	3%	8%
3 Turner (R)	25%	44%
6 Wilson, Charlie (D)	3%	3%
Oklahoma		
2 Boren (D)	10%	24%
4 Cole (R)	42%	57%
5 Fallin (R)	54%	54%
3 Lucas (R)	38%	61%
1 Sullivan (R)	89%	83%

	2007	Lifetime
Oregon		
3 Blumenauer (D)	9%	14%
4 DeFazio (D)	5%	24%
5 Hooley (D)	4%	17%
2 Walden (R) 4	5%	60%
1 Wu (D)	4%	15%

	2007	Lifetime
Pennsylvania		
4 Altmire (D)	17%	17%
1 Brady, R. (D)	2%	8%
10 Carney (D)	15%	15%
15 Dent (R)	35%	47%
14 Doyle (D)	2%	18%
3 English (R)	28%	59%
2 Fattah (D)	5%	6%
6 Gerlach (R)	31%	38%
17 Holden (D)	3%	28%
11 Kanjorski (D)	4%	19%
8 Murphy, P. (D)	15%	15%
18 Murphy, T. (R)	15%	45%
12 Murtha (D)	2%	13%
5 Peterson, J. (R)	33%	61%
16 Pitts (R)	94%	88%
19 Platts (R)	58%	60%
13 Schwartz (D)	4%	4%
7 Sestak (D)	5%	5%
9 Shuster (R)	55%	65%

	2007	Lifetime
Rhode Island		
1 Kennedy, P. (D)	1%	10%
2 Langevin (D)	3%	10%

	2007	Lifetime
South Carolina		
3 Barrett (R)	93%	93%
1 Brown, H. (R)	41%	56%
6 Clyburn (D)	3%	11%
4 Inglis (R)	89%	88%
5 Spratt (D)	2%	21%
2 Wilson, J. (R)	89%	80%

	2007	Lifetime
South Dakota		
AL Herseth Sandlin (D)	6%	15%

	2007	Lifetime
Tennessee		
7 Blackburn (R)	96%	92%
9 Cohen (D)	2%	2%
5 Cooper (D)	69%	45%
1 Davis, David (R)	93%	93%
4 Davis, L. (D)	7%	33%
2 Duncan (R)	90%	89%
6 Gordon (D)	5%	35%
8 Tanner (D)	20%	37%
3 Wamp (R)	48%	75%

	2007	Lifetime
Texas		
6 Barton (R)	75%	75%
8 Brady, K. (R)	63%	76%
26 Burgess (R)	76%	71%
31 Carter (R)	61%	61%
11 Conaway (R)	90%	66%

	2007	Lifetime
Texas (cont.)		
28 Cuellar (D)	8%	24%
7 Culberson (R)	49%	63%
25 Doggett (D)	7%	25%
17 Edwards, C. (D)	4%	23%
1 Gohmert (R)	73%	72%
20 Gonzalez (D)	3%	8%
12 Granger (R)	54%	61%
9 Green, A. (D)	3%	6%
29 Green, G. (D)	4%	18%
4 Hall, R. (R)	56%	60%
5 Hensarling (R)	100%	95%
15 Hinojosa (D)	4%	12%
18 Jackson Lee (D)	3%	8%
3 Johnson, S. (R)	84%	82%
30 Johnson, E. (D)	4%	9%
22 Lampson (D)	18%	12%
24 Marchant (R)	76%	64%
10 McCaul (R)	74%	59%
19 Neugebauer (R)	90%	80%
27 Ortiz (D)	4%	13%
14 Paul (R)	61%	80%
2 Poe (R)	84%	81%
16 Reyes (D)	2%	10%
23 Rodriguez (D)	5%	11%
32 Sessions, P. (R)	92%	85%
21 Smith, L. (R)	49%	67%
13 Thornberry (R)	95%	77%

	2007	Lifetime
Utah		
1 Bishop, R. (R)	72%	69%
3 Cannon (R)	93%	85%
2 Matheson (D)	30%	40%

	2007	Lifetime
Vermont		
AL Welch (D)	2%	2%

	2007	Lifetime
Virginia		
9 Boucher (D)	2%	14%
7 Cantor (R)	89%	72%
1 Davis (R)	0%	57%
11 Davis, T. (R)	44%	57%
2 Drake (R)	43%	48%
4 Forbes (R)	52%	64%
5 Goode (R)	51%	65%
6 Goodlatte (R)	64%	77%
8 Moran, James (D)	5%	23%
3 Scott, R. (D)	2%	7%
10 Wolf (R)	30%	64%

	2007	Lifetime
Washington		
3 Baird (D)	6%	14%
6 Dicks (D)	3%	12%
4 Hastings, D. (R)	55%	68%
1 Inslee (D)	5%	22%
2 Larsen, R. (D)	2%	14%
7 McDermott (D)	5%	16%
5 McMorris Rodgers (R)	41%	44%
8 Reichert (R)	15%	37%
9 Smith, Adam (D)	5%	27%

	2007	Lifetime
West Virginia		
2 Capito (R)	26%	45%
1 Mollohan (D)	1%	11%
3 Rahall (D)	5%	14%

	2007	Lifetime
Wisconsin		
2 Baldwin (D)	2%	9%
8 Kagen (D)	5%	5%
3 Kind (D)	6%	23%
4 Moore, G. (D)	3%	7%
7 Obey (D)	2%	18%
6 Petri (R)	91%	87%
1 Ryan, P. (R)	98%	92%
5 Sensenbrenner (R)	100%	94%

	2007	Lifetime
Wyoming		
AL Cubin (R)	37%	71%

* = not in Congress long enough to warrant an official ranking

Ratings Categories

0% - 19%	Hostile
20% - 39%	Unfriendly
40% - 59%	Lukewarm
60% - 79%	Friendly
80% - 99%	Taxpayer Hero
100%	Taxpayer Super Hero

To find out how each representative voted on the 100 votes that CCAGW used to calculate its ratings, please visit www.cagw.org or call 1-800-USA-DEBT.

2007 Senate Votes

1 Senate Vote 5: Ethics and Lobbying Overhaul—Earmark Disclosure, S. 1. Sen. Durbin, D-Ill., motion to table (kill) the DeMint, R-S.C., amendment to require the names of earmark sponsors to be made public, mandate the disclosure of earmark recipients, and expand the definition of an earmark to include federal and non-federal projects. Motion rejected 46-51. THE TAXPAYERS WON.

2 Senate Vote 6: Ethics and Lobbying Overhaul—Automatic Continuing Resolution, S. 1. Sen. DeMint, R-S.C., motion to waive the Budget Act with respect to the Conrad, D-N.D., point of order against the DeMint amendment which would require an automatic continuing resolution that would fund federal agencies at the previous year's level in the event that Congress fails to pass certain appropriations bills. Motion rejected 25-72. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

3 Senate Vote 84: Fiscal 2008 Budget Resolution—Tax Increase Point of Order, S. Con. Res. 21. Sen. Cornyn, R-Texas, amendment to create a 60-vote point of order against any bill, resolution, amendment, motion or conference report that includes a federal tax rate increase. Adopted 63-35. THE TAXPAYERS WON.

4 Senate Vote 89: Fiscal 2008 Budget Resolution—Social Security Reserve Fund, S. Con. Res. 21. Sen. DeMint, R-S.C., amendment to bar Congress from borrowing from the Social Security trust fund to finance other government programs. Rejected 45-52. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

5 Senate Vote 90: Fiscal 2008 Budget Resolution—Spending Reductions, S. Con. Res. 21. Sen. Allard, R-Colo., amendment to reduce the discretionary spending limit by \$23.6 billion by reducing funding for programs rated ineffective by the Office of Management and Budget's Program Assessment Rating Tool. Rejected 33-64. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

6 Senate Vote 92: Fiscal 2008 Budget Resolution—Reconciliation Instructions, S. Con. Res. 21. Sen. Cornyn, R-Texas, amendment to force the Finance Committee to reduce spending by \$33.8 billion over five years. Rejected 23-74. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

7 Senate Vote 104: Fiscal 2008 Budget Resolution—Reconciliation, S. Con. Res. 21. Sen. Allard, R-Colo., motion to waive the Budget Act with respect to the Conrad, D-N.D., point of order against the Allard amendment that would include reconciliation instructions requiring certain committees to reduce funds for mandatory programs by \$71 billion over five years. Motion rejected 39-60. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

8 Senate Vote 106: Fiscal 2008 Budget Resolution—Earmarks in War Supplemental, S. Con. Res. 21. Sen. Thomas, R-Wyo., amendment that would bar the insertion of non-defense earmarks into supplemental appropriations bills designated for ongoing combat operations. Rejected 39-59. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

9 Senate Vote 107: Fiscal 2008 Budget Resolution—Tax Cuts, S. Con. Res. 21. Sen. Graham, R-S.C., amendment to allow for the extension of 2001 tax cuts. Rejected 46-52. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

10 Senate Vote 108: Fiscal 2008 Budget Resolution—Alternative Minimum Tax, S. Con. Res. 21. Sen. Grassley, R-Iowa, amendment to allow for the repeal of the alternative minimum tax. Rejected 44-53. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

11 Senate Vote 109: Fiscal 2008 Budget Resolution—Estate Tax Repeal, S. Con. Res. 21. Sen. DeMint, R-S.C., amendment to allow for the repeal of the estate tax. Rejected 44-55. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

12 Senate Vote 114: Fiscal 2008 Budget Resolution—Adoption, S. Con. Res. 21. Adoption of the concurrent resolution that would set broad spending and revenue targets over the next five years. Adopted 52-47. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

13 Senate Vote 121: Fiscal 2007 Supplemental—Political Conventions Funding, H.R. 1591. Sen. Coburn, R-Okla., amendment to strike \$100 million in emergency funding for the 2008 presidential nominating conventions. Rejected 45-51. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

14 Senate Vote 142: Science and Education Competitiveness—Earmarks, S. 761. Sen. DeMint, R-S.C., amendment to establish a 60-vote point of order against legislation that would earmark funds authorized in the bill. Rejected 22-71. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

15 Senate Vote 144: Science and Education Competitiveness—Advanced Technology Program, S. 761. Sen. Coburn, R-Okla., amendment to discontinue the Advanced Technology Program. Rejected 39-57. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

16 Senate Vote 150: Food and Drug Administration Overhaul—Cloture, S. 1082. Motion to invoke cloture (thus limiting debate) on the Dorgan, D-N.D., amendment to allow the importation of drugs. Motion agreed to 63-28. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

17 Senate Vote 163: Water Resources Development Act Reauthorization—Sacramento Bank Project, H.R. 1495. Sen. Coburn, R-Okla., amendment to eliminate funding for beach replenishment at Imperial Beach, Calif. Rejected 12-77. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

18 Senate Vote 164: Water Resources Development Act Reauthorization—Visitor's Center, H.R. 1495. Sen. Coburn, R-Okla., amendment to eliminate funding for the construction of the Morgan City Visitor's Center in Louisiana. Rejected 11-79. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

19 Senate Vote 307: Children's Health Insurance—Passage, H.R. 976. Passage of the bill that would reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) at \$60.2 billion for five years, expanding the program by \$35.2 billion and covering children in households with incomes up to three times the federal poverty line. Passed 68-31. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

20 Senate Vote 312: Fiscal 2008 Military Construction-VA Appropriations—West Los Angeles Medical Center, H.R. 2642. Sen. Feinstein, D-Calif., motion to table (kill) the DeMint, R-S.C., amendment that would prohibit the disposal or transfer of property at the 388-acre Department of Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles Medical Center in California. Motion agreed to 66-25. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

21 Senate Vote 330: Fiscal 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations—Earmark Moratorium, H.R. 3074. Sen. Murray, D-Wash., motion to table (kill) the Coburn, R-Okla., amendment to eliminate earmarks until all U.S. bridges classified as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete in the bill are repaired. Motion agreed to 82-14. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

22 Senate Vote 333: Fiscal 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations Bill—Bicycle Path Earmarks, H.R. 3074. Sen. Murray, D-Wash., motion to table (kill) the Coburn, R-Okla., amendment to eliminate funding for bicycle paths or trails. Motion agreed to 80-18. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

23 Senate Vote 334: Fiscal 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations—Davis-Bacon Requirement, H.R. 3074. Sen. Murray, D-Wash., motion to table (kill) the DeMint, R-S.C., amendment to eliminate the Davis-Bacon Act. Motion agreed to 56-37. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

24 Senate Vote 335: Fiscal 2008 Transportation-HUD Appropriations—En Bloc Earmark Amendments, H.R. 3074. Sen. Murray, D-Wash., motion to table (kill) the Coburn, R-Okla., amendments to eliminate certain earmarks. Motion agreed to 63-32. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

25 Senate Vote 347: Water Resources Development Conference Report, H.R. 1495—Adoption of the conference report on the bill that would authorize \$23.2 billion for more than 900 water resources development projects and studies by the Army Corps of Engineers. Adopted 81-12. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

26 Senate Vote 356: Fiscal 2008 Defense Authorization—National Drug Intelligence Center, H.R. 1585. Sen. Coburn, R-Okla., amendment to eliminate funding for the National Drug Intelligence Center in Johnstown, Pa. Rejected 26-29. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

27 Senate Vote 358: Fiscal 2008 Defense Authorization—Public-Private Sourcing Competition, H.R. 1585. Sen. Kennedy, D-Mass., amendment to require the Defense Department to exclude the costs of health care and retirement benefits from contract bids. Adopted 51-44. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

28 Senate Vote 371: Fiscal 2008 Commerce-Justice-Science Appropriations—Commit, H.R. 3093. Sen. McConnell, R-Ky., motion to commit the bill to the Appropriations Committee with instructions that it be reported with a discretionary total that does not exceed the \$51.2 billion recommended in the president's fiscal 2008 budget. Rejected 44-50. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

29 Senate Vote 373: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—Charles B. Rangel Center for Public Service, H.R. 3043. Sen. DeMint, R-S.C., amendment to eliminate funding for the Charles B. Rangel Center for Public Service at City College of New York. Rejected 34-61. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

30 Senate Vote 377: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—Woodstock Festival Museum, H.R. 3043. Sen. Schumer, D-N.Y., motion to table (kill) the Coburn, R-Okla., amendment to eliminate funding for a museum at the Bethel Performing Arts Center commemorating the 1969 Woodstock music festival. Rejected 42-52. THE TAXPAYERS WON.

31 Senate Vote: 385: Fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations—AFL-CIO Earmarks, H.R. 3043. Sen. Harkin, D-Iowa, motion to table (kill) the DeMint, R-S.C., amendment to eliminate \$3.7 million for two AFL-CIO earmarks. Motion agreed to 60-34. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

32 Senate Vote 397: Amtrak Reauthorization—Food and Beverage Service, S. 294. Sen. Coburn, R-Okla., amendment to require Amtrak to submit quarterly reports detailing the profits and losses associated with food and beverage service on each Amtrak line. Rejected 24-67. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

33 Senate Vote 417: Farm Bill Reauthorization—Farm Subsidies and Crop Insurance, H.R. 2419. Sen. Lugar, R-Ind., amendment that would replace current commodity-support programs with several revenue-insurance programs that would make payments when revenue or yields fall below a historic level. Rejected 37-58. THE TAXPAYERS LOST.

2007 Senate Votes (continued on page 21)

Senate Ratings

	2007	Lifetime
Alabama		
Sessions, J. (R)	79%	83%
Shelby (R)	57%	54%
Alaska		
Murkowski (R)	46%	54%
Stevens (R)	37%	51%
Arizona		
Kyl (R)	94%	93%
McCain (R)	100%	88%
Arkansas		
Lincoln (D)	6%	19%
Pryor (D)	3%	9%
California		
Boxer (D)	3%	12%
Feinstein (D)	3%	16%
Colorado		
Allard (R)	86%	83%
Salazar, K. (D)	3%	16%
Connecticut		
Dodd (D)	0%	14%
Lieberman (I)	6%	21%
Delaware		
Biden (D)	0%	22%
Carper (D)	6%	18%
Florida		
Martinez (R)	71%	70%
Nelson, Bill (D)	9%	18%
Georgia		
Chambliss (R)	86%	77%
Isakson (R)	79%	81%
Hawaii		
Akaka (D)	0%	8%
Inouye (D)	0%	7%
Idaho		
Craig (R)	63%	70%
Crapo (R)	74%	70%
Illinois		
Durbin (D)	3%	8%
Obama (D)	10%	18%
Indiana		
Bayh (D)	20%	25%
Lugar (R)	63%	77%

	2007	Lifetime
Iowa		
Grassley (R)	71%	75%
Harkin (D)	6%	16%
Kansas		
Brownback (R)	80%	82%
Roberts (R)	57%	67%
Kentucky		
Bunning (R)	86%	78%
McConnell (R)	74%	69%
Louisiana		
Landrieu (D)	9%	21%
Vitter (R)	74%	66%
Maine		
Collins (R)	34%	53%
Snowe (R)	17%	50%
Maryland		
Cardin (D)	3%	3%
Mikulski (D)	3%	10%
Massachusetts		
Kennedy, E. (D)	3%	16%
Kerry (D)	6%	23%
Michigan		
Levin, C. (D)	0%	21%
Stabenow (D)	0%	17%
Minnesota		
Coleman (R)	37%	38%
Klobuchar (D)	0%	0%
Mississippi		
Cochran (R)	54%	56%
Lott (R)	63%	67%
Missouri		
Bond (R)	34%	59%
McCaskill (D)	23%	23%
Montana		
Baucus, M. (D)	3%	20%
Tester (D)	9%	9%
Nebraska		
Hagel (R)	74%	77%
Nelson, Ben (D)	3%	28%
Nevada		
Ensign (R)	97%	92%
Reid, H. (D)	0%	18%
New Hampshire		
Gregg (R)	77%	80%
Sununu (R)	89%	89%

	2007	Lifetime
New Jersey		
Lautenberg (D)	6%	24%
Menendez (D)	3%	9%
New Mexico		
Bingaman (D)	3%	21%
Domenici (R)	42%	57%
New York		
Clinton (D)	0%	9%
Schumer (D)	3%	11%
North Carolina		
Burr (R)	97%	91%
Dole (R)	73%	68%
North Dakota		
Conrad (D)	0%	18%
Dorgan (D)	0%	15%
Ohio		
Brown, S. (D)	3%	3%
Voinovich (R)	38%	65%
Oklahoma		
Coburn (R)	91%	94%
Inhofe (R)	83%	79%
Oregon		
Smith, G. (R)	38%	60%
Wyden (D)	0%	21%
Pennsylvania		
Casey (D)	6%	6%
Specter (R)	29%	49%
Rhode Island		
Reed, J. (D)	6%	13%
Whitehouse (D)	6%	6%
South Carolina		
DeMint (R)	97%	96%
Graham (R)	87%	84%
South Dakota		
Johnson, Tim (D)	0%	12%
Thune (R)	71%	67%
Tennessee		
Alexander, L. (R)	57%	72%
Corker (R)	66%	66%
Texas		
Cornyn (R)	83%	79%
Hutchison (R)	63%	67%
Utah		
Bennett (R)	60%	64%
Hatch (R)	62%	66%

	2007	Lifetime
Vermont		
Leahy (D)	3%	15%
Sanders (I)	3%	3%
Virginia		
Warner (R)	38%	71%
Webb (D)	9%	9%
Washington		
Cantwell (D)	6%	19%
Murray (D)	3%	13%
West Virginia		
Byrd (D)	0%	16%
Rockefeller (D)	3%	13%
Wisconsin		
Feingold (D)	34%	40%
Kohl (D)	3%	34%
Wyoming		
Barrasso (R)	82%	82%
Enzi (R)	85%	77%
Thomas (R)	78%	78%

Ratings Categories

0% - 19%	Hostile
20% - 39%	Unfriendly
40% - 59%	Lukewarm
60% - 79%	Friendly
80% - 99%	Taxpayer Hero
100%	Taxpayer Super Hero

To find out how each senator voted on the 35 votes that CCAGW used to calculate its ratings, please visit www.cagw.org or call 1-800-USA-DEBT.

Capitol



Watch

Drill, Baby, Drill

By Elizabeth Wright
Vice President of Government Affairs

That basically has been the catch phrase during the summer on Capitol Hill. It all started on July 29, right after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) adjourned the U.S. House for a six-week vacation. Rep. Tom Price (R-Ga.) pulled together several fellow Republicans for a series of short speeches on a variety of issues, called special orders, on the House floor. But Speaker Pelosi turned down the lights, shut off the mikes, and ordered the television cameras to go dark. The Republicans were taken aback but decided to go ahead with their speeches. The first speaker, Rep. Lynn Westmoreland (R-Ga.), began with a passionate speech on energy, condemning Speaker Pelosi and leadership for adjourning Congress without completing its work or voting on a bill that would lift the 26-year ban on off-shore drilling. The rest, they say, is history.

Many Republican lawmakers returned to the chamber and participated in the growing protest. Normally citizens are only allowed to sit in the House gallery to watch floor proceedings but in a very unusual and rare move, House Republicans invited the public to participate and brought citizens onto the House floor. Constituents were allowed to sit in members' chairs and listen to the debates. The protest got the attention of the press, talk radio, and the American public. Many cynics predicted the protest would soon fizzle out but the Republicans carried on, even when

the Republican convention in St. Paul, Minnesota was underway.

According to government estimates, there is enough oil in federal lands and off the coasts to power more than 65 million cars for 60 years and enough natural gas to heat 60 million homes for 160 years. Furthermore, the recent hurricanes have proven that off-shore drilling can be done with little environmental impact. With prices hovering around \$3.50 per gallon of gas and transportation costs driving up the cost of living, polls show that 62 percent of Americans support more domestic drilling.

When the House Republicans drew attention to Congress's inaction on the issue, Speaker Pelosi and Democrat Leaders were forced into offering H.R. 6899, the Comprehensive American Energy Security and Consumer Protection Act when they returned from the summer break. Unfortunately, there are many restrictions in the legislation with respect to where drilling can occur, such as only allowing drilling past 100 miles off the coasts or giving states the option to allow drilling beyond 50 miles. According to energy experts, most of the oil and natural gas is much closer to our shores. A real deal killer is the provision that will not allow the states to share in any of the royalties, thus providing no incentive to allow drilling off their coasts. Furthermore, the legislation leaves the Gulf of Mexico and Georges Bank off limits to energy companies. While the legislation passed by a vote of 236 to 189, the bill was declared dead on arrival in the Senate even

before the House considered it.

The House Republicans offered their own energy bill, H.R. 6566. This legislation not only lifted the moratorium completely, it encouraged the development of nuclear power, oil shale, coal, and alternative energies. It allowed more refineries to be built by cutting the red tape that has blocked the construction of these much-needed facilities in the United States for more than 30 years. It provided tax incentives to encourage fuel efficient vehicles and homes, and prize money for developing the first economical super-fuel-efficient vehicle. Leadership did not allow a vote on this bill.

Since 1982, the drilling moratorium has been renewed in the Interior Appropriations Act. Because Congress has not yet passed one appropriations bill this year, they had to implement a Continuing Resolution (CR) by September 30, the end of the fiscal year, to keep the government running. The good news is pressure from this hearty band of Republican lawmakers and the public made renewing the ban an act of political suicide. But Speaker Pelosi's office said, "The future resolution of offshore drilling will have to be addressed with a new president" and David Obey (D-Wis.), chairman of the House Appropriations Committee said the moratorium is temporarily lifted and that the "next election will decide what our drilling policy is going to be." So Americans will not really know where the nation stands with domestic oil and gas production until after November 4.

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Watch Dogs



Pork Alert Roundup

*David Williams, Vice President for Policy and
Sean Kennedy, Research Associate*

House

Commerce, Justice, Science—CAGW has documented 1,123 projects at a cost of \$409.8 million.

The top five porkers are CJS Appropriations Subcommittee member Patrick Kennedy (D-R.I.) with \$9.95 million; CJS Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Alan Mollohan (D-W.Va.) with \$9.7 million; CJS Appropriations Subcommittee member C.A. “Dutch” Ruppberger (D-Md.); with \$8 million; CJS Appropriations Subcommittee member Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) with \$7.9 million and House appropriator Ralph Regula (R-Ohio) with \$7.7 million. Some egregious pork-barrel projects in the bill include:

\$1,350,000 for planetarium costs, including \$900,000 by House appropriator Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-Ill.), and Reps. Rahm Emanuel (D-Ill.) and Danny Davis (D-Ill.) for planetarium equipment; \$250,000 by House appropriator Ray LaHood (R-Ill.) for the Lakeview Museum Planetarium; and \$200,000 by CJS Appropriations Subcommittee Ranking Member Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-N.J.) for the County College of Morris Planetarium.

\$400,000 by Rep. Rick Boucher (D-Va.) for horse-shoe crab research at Virginia Tech

Energy & Water—CAGW found 655 projects at a cost of \$821 million.

The top five porkers for Energy and Water are Rep. Stephanie Herseth (D-S.D.) with \$32.3 million; Rep. Tim Walz (D-Minn.) with \$28.5 million; House Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey (D-Wis.) with \$27.6 million; House Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee Ranking Member David Hobson (R-Ohio) with \$27.6 million; and Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) with \$25 million. Some appropriations in the bill stood out, including:

\$1.35 million by House appropriator Ralph Regula (R-Ohio) for the Rolls Royce solid oxide fuel systems development.

\$210,000 by House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee member Ed Pastor (D-Ariz) for the Native American Affairs Program and the Sid Yates Scholarship Program, under the heading of “Water and Related Resources.”

Financial Services—There are 197 projects costing \$57 million, which represents a 45 percent increase in projects and an 84 percent increase in dollar amounts from CAGW’s calculation for the fiscal year 2008 House bill.

Homeland Security—There are 102 projects for a total of \$120.1 million in this year’s House Homeland Security bill.

The top six porkers are Reps. G.K. Butterfield (D-N.C.) with \$15 million; Harold “Hal” Rogers (R-Ky.) with \$13.4 million; and Robert Aderholt (R-Ala.), John Culberson (R-Texas), Peter King (R-N.Y.), and David Price (D-N.C.) with \$6 million each.

Interior—For fiscal year 2009, CAGW has enumerated 247 projects at a cost of \$134.9 million. In fiscal year 2008, CAGW found 226 projects worth \$111 million in the House bill. The 2009 totals represent a 9.3 percent increase in projects and a 21.5 percent increase in dollar amount from 2008.

Worth noting is the stipulation for \$1 million by House Interior Subcommittee member Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (D-S.D.) for the Inter-Tribal Bison Cooperative.

Labor, Health & Human Services, and

Education—For fiscal year 2009, CAGW calculated that there are 1,370 earmarks at a cost of \$618.8 million. In fiscal year 2008, CAGW found 1,305 projects costing \$277.9 million in the House bill. The number of projects increased by 5 percent, but the dollar amount jumped by a whopping 122 percent.

The top three porkers are as follows: Neil Abercrombie (D-Hawaii), \$168.5 million; Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), \$161.3 million; and Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (D-S.D.), \$148.5. The bill included pork from both side of the aisle, most notably:

\$25 million by 30 House members (including the top three porkers in the bill) for the National Writing Project.

\$100,000 by House appropriator Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio) for the Toledo GROWS High School Garden Learning Initiative, a “community gardening outreach program.”

Military Construction—CAGW found 102 earmarks costing \$621.3 million. The previously enacted version of the fiscal 2008 Military Construction Appropriations Act included 191 projects worth \$1.2 billion. Congress is on pace to equal or exceed last year’s totals.

The most glaring example in a bill riddled with pork is the \$3.9 million added by Reps. Robert Scott (D-Va.) and Robert Wittman (R-Va.) for a vehicle paint facility at Fort Eustis, Virginia.

Senate

Agriculture—There are 287 projects for a total of \$167.2 million in the bill.

The top six porkers in the bill are Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) with \$27.4 million; Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) with \$23.6 million; Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) with \$18.9 million; Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Ranking Member Robert Bennett (R-Utah) with \$16 million; and Senate appropriator Larry Craig (R-Idaho) and Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho) squeezing out \$10.6 million each. In a bill riddled with pork, the following are just a couple of the highlights:

\$4,841,000 by 19 senators for wood utilization research in different states.

\$1,117,000 by Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Ranking Member Robert Bennett (R-Utah) for Mormon crickets.

Commerce, Justice, Science —There are 574 projects for a total of \$436.5 million in the Senate bill.

The top five porkers are Senate CJS Appropriations Subcommittee Ranking Member Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) with \$72.9 million; Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) with \$52.4 million; Senate CJS Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.) with \$48.7 million; Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.) with \$41.2 million and Senate appropriator Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) with \$32.1 million. A few of the more baffling examples of pork in the bill are:

\$24.6 million to aid watermen in the Chesapeake Bay with new work opportunities, and to restore oyster habitat and plant disease free oysters in scientifically selected sites throughout the Chesapeake Bay.

\$400,000 by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) for copper wire theft prevention in Las Vegas.

Homeland Security—There are 17 projects for a total of \$133 million in this year's Senate DHS bill. To paraphrase an earlier classic quote by Senate appropriator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), the Senate Subcommittee on Homeland Security made out "like a bandit" on this bill; 92 percent of the total appropriated funds, or nearly \$123 million, went to members of the Subcommittee.

In a playful move, this bill added an appropriation for \$4.5 million by Senate Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee member Patty Murray (D-Wash.) for the 2010 Olympics Coordination Center in Bellingham, Washington.

Transportation/Housing and Urban Development (THUD)—There are 601 projects for a total of \$906.2 million in this year's Senate bill. The dollar amount of the most notorious depository of pork in THUD, the Economic Development Initiative program, decreased 16.2 percent from \$123.5 million in the fiscal 2008 version of the Senate bill to \$103.5 million for fiscal 2009.

The top five porkers are Senate THUD Appropriations Subcommittee member Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) with \$85.4 million; Senator Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) with \$83.9 million; Senate THUD Appropriations Subcommittee Chairwoman Patty Murray (D-Wash.) with \$56.3 million; Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Robert Byrd (D-W.Va.) with \$51.4 million; and Senate Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Thad Cochran (R-Miss.) with \$51.1 million. The more interesting appropriations in the bill include:

\$1,000,000 by Senator Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) for the development of a pedestrian bridge in Poughkeepsie.

\$200,000 by Sens. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and John Kerry (D-Mass.) for renovation of the Berkshire Theatre Festival's facilities and grounds.

2007 Senate Votes (continued from page 17)

34 Senate Vote 434: Farm Bill Reauthorization – Passage, H.R. 2419. Passage of the bill that would authorize \$286 billion from fiscal 2008 through 2012 for federal farm, nutrition, rural development and agricultural trade programs. Passed 79-14. **THE TAXPAYERS LOST.**

35 Senate Vote 440: Fiscal 2008 Omnibus Appropriations – Motion to Concur, H.R. 2764. Sen. Reid, D-Nev., amendment to raise taxes to offset the costs of a one-year adjustment to exempt an additional 21 million taxpayers from paying the alternative minimum tax in 2007. It also would include tax provisions to offset the costs. Rejected 48-46. **THE TAXPAYERS WON.**

e-Network News



Sign up today for CAGW's e-Network News, a free monthly newsletter sent via email to CAGW's members and supporters. e-Network News features the latest news in our quest to eliminate waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement in the federal government and provides links to more in-depth reports on CAGW's website:

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Council for Citizens Against Government Waste

The Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW) is the lobbying arm of Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW), a private, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization representing more than one million members and supporters nationwide dedicated to eliminating waste, mismanagement, and inefficiency in government. Founded in 1984 by the late industrialist J. Peter Grace and syndicated columnist Jack Anderson, CAGW is the legacy of the President's Private Sector Survey on Cost Control, also known as the Grace Commission. CCAGW tabulates its annual *Congressional Ratings* to measure the willingness of each member of Congress to fight government waste and reduce the national debt.

Pitbulls and Pigs get Cozy in Minnesota

The Council for Citizens Against Government Waste teams up with long-time ally National Taxpayers Union for a “Pitbulls and Pigs” reception in Minneapolis-St. Paul to promote limited government and the elimination of wasteful spending.



National Taxpayers Union President Duane Parde and his wife Kristin Armshaw Parde greet Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty and his wife, Mary.



CCAGW President Tom Schatz introduces special guest and taxpayer hero, Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.).



Sen. DeMint shares some analysis of the election going forward after the convention.



National Taxpayers Union Director of Government Affairs, Kristina Rasmussen with the Governor and Mrs. Pawlenty.



Governor Pawlenty (R) discusses the presidential election.



Attendees get into the spirit of the reception with complimentary pig snouts.



CCAGW Food and Agriculture Director John Frydenlund and CCAGW VP of Development Ariane Sweeney.

CAGW Herding Piglets in Nevada and California

CAGW Releases California and Nevada Piglet Books

By Sarah Maroney
Research Intern

In 2002, Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW) moved beyond its historical mission as a federal budget watchdog and focus a portion of our resources on investigating profligate spending in the states. Using the expertise garnered from two decades of fighting waste, fraud, and abuse in the federal government, CAGW reached out to the growing network of state-based public policy and taxpayer organizations to develop a new publication – the Piglet Book.

To date, CAGW has partnered with state-based public policy and taxpayer organizations to author 24 Piglet Books in 14 states. Taken together, these Piglet Books have identified more than \$51 billion in wasteful, outmoded, and inefficient state spending. Since CAGW released its first Piglet Book, these headline-grabbing publications have become important blueprints showing state policymakers how to close budget gaps through spending cuts and management reforms with resorting to tax increases.

In September, CAGW released its latest installments, the *2008 California Piglet Book* and *2008 Nevada Piglet Book*.

This year's *California Piglet Book* is the outcome of a collaborative effort between CAGW and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Foundation. Topping the list of California's fiscally-misguided expenditures is a high-speed rail system (HSR) proposal which will appear on the state's ballot



From L to R: Reason Foundation Vice President of Research Adrian Moore, HJTA President Jon Coupal, CAGW President Tom Schatz, California High-Speed Rail authors Wendell Cox and Joseph Vranich.

in November as Proposition 1A. If passed, the state will build a high-speed rail between the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento to Los Angeles and San Diego. The *2008 California Piglet Book* features a summary of *The California High Speed Rail Proposal: A Due Diligence Report* by Wendell Cox and Joseph Vranich, which challenges many important aspects of the HSR proposal. While the initial plan calls for \$54.3 billion, the *Due Diligence Report* projects a final cost of between \$65.2 billion and \$81.4 billion.

Other state spending outrages include \$1 million for 51 California Highway Patrol vans. The California Bureau of State Audits found that the 51 vans have been driven a paltry 401 miles – combined. In addition, it was reported that the California Department of Transportation has spent \$3 million to pay for 30 vans to transport farm workers to and from their fields. It may be of particular interest in view of the fact that California's Governor, Arnold Schwarzenegger (R), may be asking for a \$7 billion loan in order to pay for state law enforcement, hospitals, and firefighting in the wake of the turmoil in the credit markets. Perhaps

the *California Piglet* could provide a blueprint for eliminating billions in wasteful spending rather than seeking federal loans.

The *2008 Nevada Piglet book*, which was released on September 18, 2008 in conjunction with the Nevada Policy Research Institute, highlights hidden spending in the Silver State. The report lists multiple outrageous examples of waste, including the trials and tribulations of the Clark County School District (CCSD) which in 2005 hired the German software company SAP to consolidate its back-office operations into a single, integrated system called an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project at an estimated cost of \$25 million. CCSD went ahead with the plan despite the immense cost overruns experienced by other school districts around the country which had attempted to implement similar ERP projects. Predictably, costs have spiraled. They already exceed \$35 million, while a further \$12 million will be requested to complete the project.

In Washoe County, \$2,000 was spent on an "Earth Day Celebration," along with \$1,700 for two barbecue grills. Also, Clark County records show that \$44,439 went to arts, crafts, and other party supplies. Recently, Las Vegas City Council members spent \$1,200 for personalized engraved pencils bearing Councilman Steve Wolfson's name. One thousand dollars was wasted on beach balls bearing Councilman Steve Ross's name.

These examples only scratch the surface of the wasteful spending exposed in the two reports. The complete *2008 California Piglet Book* and *2008 Nevada Piglet Book* are available at www.cagw.org.

Guest Column

Bad Labor Law Is a Path to Economic Ruin

By *Bernie Marcus*
Chairman, *The Marcus Foundation* and
Co-founder of *the Home Depot*



I recently said that America "would become France" if a certain bill now in Congress -- which would virtually guarantee that every company becomes unionized -- ever became law. Deceptively named the Employee Free Choice Act, this bill would in most cases take away an employee's right to a secret ballot in a union election and give unions the option to have federal arbitrators set the wages, benefits, hours and all other terms and conditions of employment.

Countries other than France have suffered the consequences of bad labor laws. When I was CEO of Handy Dan, the precursor to Home Depot, I traveled to England in the 1970s to take a look at a chain of stores we were considering for acquisition. When I arrived in London, the airport workers, bus drivers and garbage collectors were all on strike. The major shareholder of the company asked me to interview three employees. He informed me afterward that he wanted me to hire them at Handy Dan "because the U.K. was finished." He explained that his tax rate was 75% and there were no incentives to grow.

When I asked what he and his company were doing about it, he told me that the media

would attack the company if it got involved politically. I jumped all over him and the company's CEO for letting this happen without a fight. Needless to say, Handy Dan did not buy these stores. Fortunately for Britain and thanks to the courage of Margaret Thatcher, both tax rates and the power of labor unions were reduced in later years.

My advice today about the Employee Free Choice Act is the same as I gave in England: You better fight to stop this undemocratic bill. I'm not the only one who thinks the proposed law violates long-established principles of democracy. George McGovern, a former Democratic senator and a champion of organized labor, called this bill what it really is -- "a disturbing and undemocratic overreach not in the interest of either management or labor."

To my astonishment, most CEOs in America are unaware of this planned hostile takeover of their human resources. I am retired, so this is not business for me. It's strictly personal. I care deeply about the competitiveness of American companies and our system of free enterprise.

I know that labor-union contributions are the lifeblood of many in the House and Senate. But I just cannot understand how so many in Congress are willing to sell out America for political dollars. When the bill came up for a key vote in 2007, all Senate Democrats voted yes and only two Democrats in the House had the courage to vote no. While the bill passed the House, it failed in the Senate because the Democrats were unable to get the required 60 votes to stop a Republican filibuster.

If the Democrats have a good November, the measure could become law early next year. Bill co-sponsor Barack Obama has said: "We will pass the Employee Free Choice Act. It's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when. We may have to wait for the next president to sign it, but we will get this thing done."

Those who support the bill claim that it will "protect workers." This doesn't pass the straight-face test. Mr. McGovern saw through the false rhetoric of the bill's sponsors, saying that the measure "runs counter to ideals that were once at

the core of the labor movement. Instead of providing a voice for the unheard, [it] risks silencing those who would speak."

It's time to stand up and fight. America's competitiveness, jobs and right to a secret ballot are at stake. CEOs, employees who want to keep their jobs in America -- and those retirees like me who would not be where we are today but for our system of free enterprise—must stop this anti-democratic legislation.

This article first appeared in The Wall Street Journal on August 26, 2008.

Treasury's Toxic Waste Dump...on Taxpayers

By Leslie K. Paige
Media Director

The legislation is unprecedented and historic; the price tag, up to \$700 billion, is staggering; taxpayers are confused and angry; and the response in the nation's capital has been both fluid and chaotic. Everyone agrees something must be done, but no one is sure what will work.

The U.S. Treasury Department initially asked for broad legal authority to use taxpayer's funds to "rescue" the nation's financial system. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke sat before the Senate Banking Committee on Tuesday, September 23, grappling with questions on the mechanics of the "plan," the Troubled Asset Relief program, which was then still being written. They claimed frequently that their approach could, if properly crafted, finally establish stability in the volatile credit markets, set a floor for the seemingly bottomless free fall in home prices, and unlock vital cash flow to lubricate a credit system which, according to Paulson, is clogged with nonperforming, toxic mortgage debt.

The Bush administration, after staggering from one ineffective, case-by-case, institution-specific bailout to another (Bear Stearns, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and insurance giant AIG), suddenly reversed course and announced what it described as a more systemic, comprehensive plan to address the underlying weaknesses in the securities themselves.

Bernanke and Paulson, facing an increasingly skeptical Congress, warned of dire consequences to the entire financial system unless the Treasury was granted sweeping latitude to take certain toxic assets off the hands of struggling banks and place them into a government-controlled holding entity, or "bad loan bank." A group of private sector asset management firms would be retained to evaluate the assets and price them according to class of security, an extremely tricky proposition (especially since some of those asset management firms managed to help cause the problems they are now supposed to solve). Pricing the securities too high would mean that taxpayers subsidize the banks excessively; pricing them too low would deter the banks from participating in the auction at all. If the auctions are handled properly, Paulson and Bernanke argued, taxpayers will see some returns on their investments since they will eventually accrue in value as the economy improves.

Initial skepticism of the plan turned into robust congressional resistance, especially in the House, after the *Washington Times* reported that Sec. Paulson

wanted the authority not only to purchase bad mortgage debt, but also bad credit card debt, auto loans, and student loans. Paulson was unwilling to confirm or deny that report during his September 23 testimony, repeating only that Treasury needed maximum flexibility to enact the plan.

Congressional Democrats, worried that the plan would be weighted too heavily in favor of big mortgage lenders, jumped into the fray with proposals requiring any company unloading bad debt on the taxpayers to cap its executives' compensation. They also demanded that taxpayers be granted an equity share in the company's future profits, a proposal that was eventually discarded.

The congressional protests evoked consternation from the Bush administration, which claimed that rapid action was essential, and extraneous actions might be too "punitive," dramatically limiting industry participation in the auctions and dooming the plan to failure.

Constituent calls to both Republicans' and Democrat's offices and radio talk shows nationwide ran aggressively against the plan soon after the bill was put together and scheduled for a vote on Monday, September 29. Members on both sides of the aisle expressed anger and frustration at being railroaded into accepting a plan that was long on speculation and short on details. Fiscally conservative House Republicans, philosophically opposed to any bailouts of private sector firms, suggested that financial institutions that engaged in risky lending and securitizing practices simply be allowed to fail. Members of the House Republican Study Committee back an alternative plan which would involve no taxpayer money. Instead, the RSC wanted a suspension of mark-to-market accounting rules which force banks to value their long-term assets at today's "fire-sale" prices, making them look shakier while also impeding their ability to borrow capital on the market, as well as a two-year suspension of the capital gains tax to encourage the flow of capital into the markets.

On September 29, 2008, in a stunning turn of events, the House version of what had become known as the "Paulson Plan" went down to a narrow defeat, 228 to 205, thirteen votes short of passage. Despite aggressive arm-twisting by the leadership of both parties, 95 Democrats and 134 Republicans balked at approving such a massive transfer of power to the Treasury Department and exposure of \$700 billion in taxpayer money in the face of obvious grassroots fury and opposition, just weeks before a hotly-contested election day. The Dow Industrial Average plunged by more than 700 points during the course of that day.

On Wednesday, October 1, the Senate had decided to take its shot at the bill to put pressure on the House to reconsider. In order to bribe members from both sides of the aisle to switch their votes, leaders grafted a Senate-passed tax extender bill onto the bailout plan that included \$105 billion in tax breaks for various industries, and a "fix" of \$46 billion for the alternative minimum tax so it would not affect more taxpayers in 2009. The sweeteners included a \$148 million tax break for clothing manufacturers who use imported wool yarn, \$100 million for owners of auto racing tracks, \$10 million for Hollywood producers to encourage them to make more films in the United States, and a \$2 million tax break for the manufacturers of children's toy arrows. Once leadership leveraged the tax bill to lure enough votes out of hiding, the Senate passed the now 451-page bill by an easy 74 to 25, the House took it up two days later and passed it 263 to 171.

With the rescue plan entrenched and congressional recess now in progress, taxpayers are anxiously watching the markets for any sign that the unprecedented plan that they were forced to accept will provide any shelter from the economic storm, which is now also hitting the European markets. They are also left to ponder how the plan will be implemented, how it will change the financial services and economic landscape of our country for decades to come, and what a new President and a new Congress will do in 2009 to seriously address the size of government and underlying weaknesses in the nation's economy.

Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member of the Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), one of the few senators who refused on principle to negotiate over the particulars of bill and who ultimately voted against it, may have crystallized the doubts of many taxpayers during the Senate hearings on the proposal: "What if it doesn't work?" he asked Secretary Paulson. "You assume it will work, but you can't assure us that you know it's going to work, because you thought some of the other plans were going to work."

If it doesn't work, one outcome may be to turn the Federal Reserve and the Treasury into bankers of first and last resort. The line is already forming – states such as California and Massachusetts already have their hands out asking for help. Taxpayers should hold tightly onto whatever is left of their wallets.

Membership



By Martin Rundle
Manager of Development Research

By the Books

As nonprofit organizations, Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW) and the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW) are audited on an annual basis by an independent accounting firm. Our complete financial operations are reported each year in annual tax filings, as required by the IRS. Our accountants have confirmed that in fiscal year 2007 CAGW's and CCAGW's research, public education, and lobbying activities accounted for 70 percent of total expenditures; fundraising accounted for 20 percent; and administrative expenses absorbed 10 percent.

CAGW and CCAGW accept no government funding and rely entirely on the private support of individuals, corporations, and foundations.

The J. Peter Grace Legacy Society

Established in 1997 by the Grace family, the J. Peter Grace Legacy Society is a living memorial to the late Grace Commission chairman and CAGW co-founder, J. Peter Grace—and to his vision of a fiscally responsible government that is accountable to taxpayers.

With support from individuals and estates, the legacy society helps provide the financial underpinning for CAGW's ongoing role as the independent voice of the taxpayer. Members of the society have joined the Grace family in preserving Peter's legacy by working to ensure that the American taxpayer's interest wins out over the special interests in Washington.

For more information about the J. Peter Legacy Society, please contact us at 1-800-USA-DEBT.

In 2007, individual contributions accounted for 78 percent of contributions and corporate and foundation contributions accounted for 22 percent. We are indebted to the generous support of America's taxpayers and thank all that have joined us in the fight against government waste. Together we are making a difference!

Programming Notes

Catch the latest government waste news from CAGW President Tom Schatz every Tuesday morning on CNBC's "Squawk Box" at 6:45 a.m. EDT (schedule subject to change). And read the latest commentary from CAGW's policy experts daily on our blog, www.swineline.org.

Taxpayer News Wire

July 16—Happy Cost of Government Day – the date on which the average American worker has earned enough to pay off his or her share of tax and regulatory burdens imposed by all levels of government. This year the average American needed to work an additional 16 days out of the year to pay off his or her cost of government compared to 2000 and four days compared to last year.

July 23—The Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW) strongly denounced the Bush Administration's cave-in on H.R. 3221, The American Housing and Foreclosure Prevention Act. The bill was initially expected to cost \$300 billion, but last minute changes included a projected \$25 billion rescue plan for the nation's two government-sponsored enterprises, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, as well as a \$3.9 billion grant program to assist states and localities in purchasing foreclosed properties.

July 24—Rep. John Mica (R-Fla.) is named Citizens Against Government Waste's (CAGW) July Porker of the Month for his opposition to an earmark ban and defense of earmarks. According to the July 8 *Orlando Sentinel*, Rep. Mica said,

"There's no way in hell I would support banning earmarks ... That's our job, getting elected and making decisions."

July 29—Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) was indicted by the Justice Department on seven counts for failing to disclose \$250,000 worth of gifts from a contractor. No friend of the taxpayer, Sen. Stevens has helped bring home a total of 1,452 pork-barrel projects worth \$3.4 billion between 1995 and 2008, and Alaska has been the number one state in pork per capita every year since 1999 in CAGW's annual *Congressional Pig Book*.

August 13—Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nevada) are named CAGW's August Porkers of the Month for leading a do-nothing Congress into a five week vacation. Of the 106 bills enacted since January, 94, or 89 percent, were to name government buildings or lands, extend or make technical corrections to existing laws, or passed either by unanimous consent or with less than 10 dissenting votes. The accomplishments included "Frank Sinatra Day," National Plumbing Industry Week," and "National Day of the Cowboy."

August 27—CCAGW released its *2007 Congressional Ratings*. There were three Taxpayer Super Heroes with a score of 100 percent: Reps. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas), and F. James Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.). There were no Taxpayer Super Heroes in the Senate for the second year in a row. However, Sens. Richard Burr (R-N.C.), Jim DeMint (R-S.C.), and John Ensign (R-Nev.) came close with scores of 97 percent. The *2007 Congressional Ratings* are available online at www.ccagw.org.

Maurice Reese

CAGW President's Club Member Speaks Out for Honesty and Frugality in Government

*By Mark Fennel
Manager of Membership Services*

CAGW President's Club member Maurice Reese's life story makes you proud to be a fellow American and serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices and values that have made this nation great.

Born in 1921 on a small farm in Evansville, Wisconsin, Maurice fondly recalls attending a one-room schoolhouse and the bonds he forged with his classmates. When he graduated from the eighth grade at the age of 13 in the middle of the Great Depression, Maurice had not mastered algebra, but that one-room schoolhouse had instilled him with the Midwestern values that have sustained his life—honesty, integrity and frugality.

Maurice recounts that in his youth the government didn't provide handouts, and everyone was expected to pull his own weight. Barely into his teens, Maurice and his brother worked on a neighbor's dairy farm for a \$1.00 a day each, not including lunch, which they had to take with them. Maurice recalls how making ends meet was "hard going." At one point, the money his own family's farm earned for sending a pig to slaughter didn't offset the cost of transporting the animal. Maurice jests that the reverse is true of Congress, where eliminating the worst "Oinkers" would surely help offset the federal budget deficit!

In 1941 with \$50 to his name and no car, Maurice fell in love and married his wife of 67 years, Arlene. He was only 20 years old; she was just 18. To support his new family, Maurice took a job boning meat at the local Oscar Meyer plant, only to be drafted into the Navy in December, 1942.

Maurice spent three years in the communications department of a flagship in the South Pacific. The Japanese never hit his ship, and it didn't lose a single crewmember. He passed the required tests to qualify for Navy officer training; however, interviewers rejected his application because he lacked a high school diploma. Les-

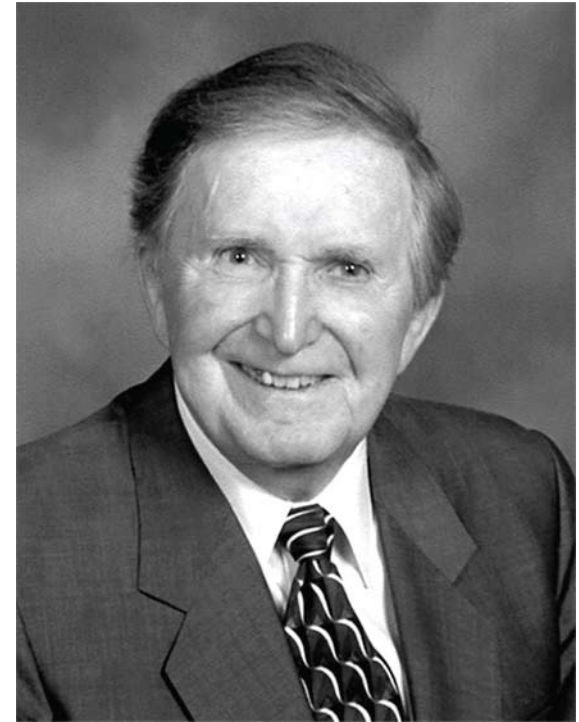
son learned, Maurice approached the principal of Evansville High School about taking a high school equivalency test when discharged from the Navy in 1945. His common sense and real-world experience filled the gaps left by his eighth-grade education, and five hours later, Maurice received his high school diploma.

Maurice enrolled in the University of Wisconsin and took a part-time job in the insurance industry to pay his expenses. Soon his employer asked him to quit school and become a full-time supervisor. Three years later, Maurice became the General Agent of Federal Life Insurance Company of Chicago, with a service area covering all of Wisconsin and northern Illinois. His business savvy next led him into banking, and Maurice served as the first president of Lake City Bank, which eventually became part of Marshall Ilsely Bank, the largest bank in Wisconsin.

Maurice appreciates his success for enabling him to finance a college education for his three children and for five of his eight grandchildren, one of whom became an attorney. In 2001, Maurice himself returned to college and, at 80, became the oldest student ever to graduate from the University of Wisconsin.

Maurice views the shenanigans in our nation's capital through the prism of his Midwestern values and business acumen. He complains that Washington today lacks "good old-fashioned honesty." As a former insurance salesman and banker, Maurice says trust must be earned and never betrayed. He reminisces about "Ronald Reagan's days when he tried to be honest with the American people."

Maurice notes that as a bank director he worked "for the benefit of customers and stockholders. If you did not do a good job, you would be replaced," but things don't work that way in government. "Today, we have congressmen who think they're in Washington for their own benefit, not the benefit of their constituents. The people of the United States are good people, but the folks we elect don't do what we want them to do. They are there to represent you and me, and sometimes they forget that." That's why, asserts Maurice, he supports watchdog groups like Citizens Against Government Waste.



When he first began selling insurance and earning discretionary cash, Maurice says his boss advised him not to increase his standard of living one dollar until he had saved six months worth of paychecks in the bank. Maurice recounts with pride the day when his grandson Aaron returned from teaching English in Japan, "looked at me and announced, 'Grandpa, I have six months of paychecks in the bank saved from teaching English.'"

Maurice believes, "Most folks today not only spend what they make, but future money as well." The same can certainly be said of our elected officials in Washington, who have racked up a federal deficit that is expected to reach a record \$482 billion – nearly half a trillion dollars—in fiscal 2009.

CAGW is grateful for the support of Maurice and the hundreds of other President's Club members who provide the personal dedication and financial firepower necessary to keep driving home the message that such deficit spending is mortgaging the future of our children and grandchildren.

FCC Takes First Steps in Enforcing Net Neutrality

By Sarah Maroney
Research Intern

The government is one step closer to regulating the Internet as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) attempts to sanction Comcast for its management of Internet traffic. The FCC claims that its authority to act is covered under broadband network principles that were adopted in September 2005. The principles were intended to increase competition among network providers, and allow consumer access to “the lawful Internet content of their choice ... run applications and use services of their choice ... and connect to their choice of legal devices that do not harm the network.” This was supposed to address network neutrality.

Proponents of net neutrality argue that all Internet traffic should be considered equal, and no traffic should be blocked or slowed down because

of its content, destination, or origin. Internet service providers (ISPs) such as Comcast argue that they should be allowed to manage traffic in order to keep information flowing to all users.

In what was anticipated to be a partisan fight within the FCC, Democrats Jonathan Adelstein and Michael Copps voted with Republican Chairman Kevin Martin on August 18 to find Comcast in violation of the September 2005 broadband principles for the company’s management of file sharing applications.

That decision was the first time any company was found to have violated the principles and it formed the basis for the FCC’s view of net neutrality. The FCC stated that “Comcast had unduly interfered with Internet users’ right to access the lawful Internet content and to use the applications of their choice.” The ruling will force Comcast to disclose information regarding the company’s

network management. It also means Comcast will have to end its regulation of peer to peer file sharing. However, the Commission decided against fining Comcast.

On September 4, 2008, Comcast appealed the FCC’s decision, claiming that the company is not blocking the sharing of files, but only slowing file sharing traffic. Comcast argues that it has the right to protect other customers from continuous file sharing that can slow down their connection. The company argues that it was only attempting to limit excessive broadband movement that can burden other customers. In addition, file sharing can often violate copyright and intellectual property laws.

ISPs have already begun policing themselves and taken action to protect Internet users. Innovation will be stifled and millions of tax dollars will be wasted if the FCC continues to be evolve into an Internet police force.

GOVERNMENT

Waste 22
PITBULLS & PIGS
Photo Essay

Watch 23
CAGW HERDING
PIGLETS
in Nevada and
California

2
MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT
Tom Schatz Blasts
the Do-Nothing
Congress

6
CCAGW 2007
CONGRESSIONAL
RATINGS

25
TREASURY'S
TOXIC WASTE
DUMP

3
AIRFORCE
TANKER
INDECISION

19
CAPITOL WATCH
Drill, Baby, Drill

28
NET
NEUTRALITY

5 AG UPDATE

20
WATCH DOGS
Pork Alert
Round-Up



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