

Congressman Jim Jordan (R-OH), Chairman

October 28, 2009

House to Consider Interior-Environment Conference Report This Week

This week, the House will consider the FY 2010 Interior-Environment Conference Report. The House-passed version of the legislation appropriated \$32.3 billion, which **\$4.7 billion** or **17.1%** above last year. This is on top of **\$10.95 billion** of emergency spending for Interior-Environment programs in FY 2009. In addition, the FY 2010 House-passed funding level is **\$5.8 billion** or **21.6%** above FY 2008.

The House-passed bill provided \$10.6 billion for the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**, a \$3.0 billion or 38.7% increase compared to last year (The EPA also received \$7.2 billion of emergency-designated funding in FY 2009). Three other examples of programs that some conservatives have historically viewed as wasteful that are funded by this bill: **National Endowment of Arts** (\$170 million in House-passed bill), **National Endowment of Humanities** (\$170 million in House-passed bill), and **Save America's Treasures** (\$30 million in House-passed bill). The conference report agreement will also reportedly extend Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements to Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. The House passed its version of the legislation by a vote of 254-173.

The FY 2010 Interior-Environment conference report will also reportedly include an extension of the current continuing resolution through December 18, 2009, which is otherwise set to expire on October 31, 2009. An RSC amendment to the continuing resolution (that this legislation would extend), filed by Representative Jim Jordan, would have provided spending authority for the 9 non-security appropriations bills at *FY 2008 spending levels*. For the Defense, Military Construction-Veterans, and Homeland Security bills, the amendment provided a funding level equivalent to the *FY 2010 House-passed bills*. Compared to enactment of the House Democrats' FY 2010 spending plan, this amendment proposed a spending policy that would save **\$84 billion**. On a party line vote, the Rules Committee refused to even allow consideration of the amendment.

Quote of the Week: *"Now that we are trying in every front to increase the role of government in the regulatory area, we run into the public opinion that says, hey, those are the guys who screwed up Katrina."*

-Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA)

Fact of the Week: The \$1.4 trillion FY 2009 deficit is equivalent to **\$4,700** per American.

To date, just 2 (Agriculture and Legislative Branch) of the twelve FY 2010 appropriations bills have been enacted into law, which means that appropriators will likely resort to an omnibus to finish the FY 2010 appropriations process.

Infrastructure Spending in "Stimulus" Even Slower Than Expected

The American Enterprise Institute's Alex Brill reports that several federal agencies have yet to spend the vast majority of funding made available under the "stimulus." As he puts it: "But new data on the stimulus bill makes clear that many supposedly shovel-ready projects are still tied up in administration red tape." For example, many departments have yet to spend even *10%* of their "stimulus" funds, including: Commerce, Defense, Energy, Homeland Security, Interior, and Transportation. And many agencies are substantially below this rate. For example, the National Institutes for Health and the National Science Foundation have spent only *1%* of their "stimulus" funds. At this rate, these agencies will finish spending "stimulus" money by 2067. The RSC economic growth alternative, H.R. 470, would have let businesses and individuals keep more of their own money, bypassing the many bureaucratic impediments to getting money out the door when it is left to the government to figure out how to spend money.

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