

Top 10



December 15, 2010

Top 10 Reasons to oppose the “Omnibus” Spending bill

By: Max Pappas

At nearly 2,000 pages, and well over \$1 trillion dollars, there are far more than ten reasons to oppose the “omnibus” spending bill that was sprung on us at the last minute by this lame duck Congress. But here are some of the worst parts of this bill, which is expected to be voted on as an amendment to H.R. 3082.

1. Congress hasn’t learned their lesson.

This lame-duck trillion dollar pork-laden bill is an affront to our democracy in that it ignores the message so many tried to send Washington at the ballot box just over a month ago. Overwhelmingly, the people rejected big government.

2. It will increase government spending.

We called for less spending and this lame-duck \$1 trillion-plus bill continues Congress’ reckless spending spree. At almost 2,000 pages, it averages \$575,120,000 in spending per page.

3. A trillion dollar spending bill deserves more open debate.

We called for an honest and transparent process and the lame-duck Senate gives us another 2,000 page bill crafted behind closed doors that it wants to quickly cram through at the last minute.

4. It will fund ObamaCare.

This bill includes over \$1,000,000,000 in spending to implement the unpopular and unconstitutional ObamaCare health care takeover (see pages 983-1001).

5. It includes the unconstitutional FDA Food “Safety” Bill.

This over-sized spending bill includes the Food “Safety” Bill that will spend \$1.4 billion giving the federal government unprecedented control over our diets while not making our food any safer. Federal bureaucrats who likely know little to nothing about farming will set the guidelines on appropriate temperatures, what soil to use, how much water to use and what animals are allowed to be on certain fields. This over-regulation bill has no place in this already over-stuffed spending bill.

Max Pappas is vice president, public policy at FreedomWorks, a nation-wide grassroots organization dedicated to lower taxes, less government and more freedom. Join for free at FreedomWorks.org



FreedomWorks

601 Pennsylvania Ave. NW · North Building, Suite 700 · Washington, DC 20004

Phone: (202) 783.3870 Fax: (202) 942.7649

www.FreedomWorks.org

6. The focus should be on cutting government spending.

In just the past two years, total government spending has increased by 16.8 percent. The omnibus continues our nation on the path to economic ruin. Instead, Congress should begin rolling back spending, like the Republican Study Committee suggests in their alternative bill that moves domestic discretionary spending back to FY2008 levels. For perspective, in inflation-adjusted dollars, federal discretionary spending alone has almost doubled since FY2000. Are you getting twice as much from your government?

7. The omnibus moves Nevada to the Pacific Coast.

It designates Nevada a “Pacific Coast State” so Senator Harry Reid can direct special finds to his state. Last we checked no part of Nevada touches the Pacific Ocean.

8. It has over 6,000 earmarks costing over \$8 billion.

We called for no more earmarks and this lame-duck Senate gives us a pork-stuffed bill with over 6,000 earmarks that spend over \$8 billion on pet projects, many beyond absurd and far beyond the appropriate role of the federal government.

9. It steers federal spending to pet projects in lawmaker’s states.

Sen. Inouye (D-Hawaii), is the lead sponsor of this “omnibus” spending bill, so it should be no surprise that among many other earmarks, it includes, \$400,000 for Hawaii Fisheries Development in Honolulu, \$1,000,000 for the Hawaii Seafood Program in Honolulu, \$2,500,000 for the Imiloa Astronomy Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

10. It’s business as usual with enough pork to make Jimmy Dean jealous.

And the pork rolls out all over the place. Here are just 10 more to round out this Top 10:

1. \$277,000 for potato pest management in Wisconsin
2. \$246,000 for bovine tuberculosis in Michigan and Minnesota
3. \$413,000 for peanut research in Alabama
4. \$247,000 for virus free wine grapes in Washington
5. \$94,000 for blackbird management in Louisiana
6. \$165,000 for maple research in Vermont
7. \$235,000 for noxious weed management in Harry Reid’s Nevada
8. \$150,000 for “Construction of a Children’s Playground” in Yauco, Puerto Rico
9. \$1,000,000 “for revitalization and renewal of the city’s downtown region” for Longview, Washington
10. \$400,000 for a “National Textile Center” at Cornell University

