



H.R. 2641 - Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008

Floor Situation

Further consideration of H.R. 2641 is being considered on the floor under a unanimous consent agreement. This legislation was introduced by Representative Peter Visclosky (D-IN) on June 11, 2007. This will be a continuation of the debate that began on June 19, 2007.

This legislation is expected to be considered on the floor and a vote on final passage of H.R. 2641 is expected on July 17, 2007.

The full Legislative Digest for H.R. 2641 can be found [HERE](#).

Please note that a running list of amendments offered during floor debate will be available on our [website](#).

Summary

H.R. 2641 and the accompanying committee report did not contain earmarks at the time the legislation was considered on the Floor of the House. In an agreement announced by the Majority Leader's office and Chairman Obey (D-WI), it was agreed that H.R. 2641 would not be voted on until a supplemental report was filed containing earmarks. The legislation was considered on June 19, 2007. The supplemental report was filed on July 13, 2007.

The supplemental report for H.R. 2641 provides details regarding project-specific funding for Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation water projects, and on earmarks for the Department of Energy and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

There are 777 Member-specific earmarks totaling \$1,089.5 billion dollars.

For the Corps of Engineers, the Appropriations Committee earmarked 466 Member projects for a total of \$770 million. The Committee did not provide funds to any new programs or water projects that are not authorized. Many of these requests are for additional funding for projects already included in the Administration's budget request. These additions represent 19 percent of the Administration's project-specific request, and only 14 percent of the total budget of \$5.584 billion recommended for the Corps.

For the Bureau of Reclamation, the Appropriations Committee earmarked 47 Member projects for a total of \$72 million. These additions represent a 13 percent increase in the Bureau's budget for specific projects, totaling 7 percent of the Bureau's overall budget.

For the Department of Energy, the Committee recommends 263 specific Congressionally-directed projects for a total of \$246.5 million. This represents less than 1 percent of DOE's total budget of \$25.2 billion.

For the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC), the Committee recommends a single earmark totaling \$1 million, out of a total recommended budget of \$35 million for the ARC.

The supplemental report on earmarks can be found by clicking [this link](#)

Background

During the debate on H.R. 2638, the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act for FY2008 there was a vigorous floor debate over the openness of earmarks and the earmark process. It was the intent of the Appropriations Chairman David Obey (D-WI) to debate all of the appropriations bills without earmarks and later add those earmarks to each conference report. This would have caused Members to vote for a bill without knowing what would be in the final product.

A unanimous consent agreement amongst the Republican Leader, Democratic Leader and Chairman Obey agreed that all further appropriation bills would be sent back to committee to have earmarks inserted. The Rules of the House were amended to state that:

“During the remainder of the 110th Congress-it shall not be in order to consider a conference report to accompany a regular general appropriation bill unless the joint explanatory statement prepared by the managers on the part of the House and the managers on the part of the Senate includes a list of congressional earmarks (and the name of any Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, or Senator who submitted a request to the respective House or Senate committee for each respective item included on the list) that were not committed to the conference committee by either House, not in a report specified in clause 9(a)(1) of rule XXI, and not in a report of a committee of the Senate on a companion measure.”

H.R. 2641 now contains a report that includes a list of earmarks and the Members who requested those earmarks.

The overall bill provides \$31.6 billion for fiscal year 2008, which is \$1.13 billion over the President's request and \$1.3 billion above the Fiscal Year 2007 funding levels.

Amendments Pre-Printed in the Congressional Record on July 16, 2007

(Please note that a running list of amendments offered during floor debate will also be available on our [website](#).)

- 1) **Rep. Hensarling (R-TX):** None of the funds in this Act may be used for the South Carolina HBCU Science and Technology Initiative (SC).
- 2) **Rep. Hensarling (R-TX):** None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Environmental Science Center, University of Dubuque, IA.
- 3) **Rep. Hensarling (R-TX):** None of the funds in this Act may be used for the Emmanuel College Center for Science Partnership, MA.
- 4) **Rep. Hensarling (R-TX):** None of the funds in this Act may be used for Roosevelt University Biology Laboratory Equipment (IL).
- 5) **Rep. Hensarling (R-TX):** None of the funds in this Act may be used for Nanosys, Inc.

Staff Contact

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