



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

July 23, 2008

To: Members of the U.S. Senate
Re: Coburn-Omnibus

Dear Senator:

I urge you to reject Sen. Harry Reid's (D-Nev.) effort to force a floor vote on the "Reid Omnibus."

The senate leadership seeks to ram through a bill that would compile approximately 36 bills currently blocked by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) into one omnibus bill which could total more than \$11 billion in federal spending and call for the creation of more than 34 new federal programs. Sen. Coburn's hold on these bills protects taxpayers because it prevents their swift passage through the Senate under a unanimous consent request without debate on the bills' merit.

The effort to combine these bills, many of which contain wasteful and duplicative programs (like the import, export and transportation of non-human primates, and overseas student travel) is a questionable tactic to skirt debate. In order to protect hard-working Americans, each piece of legislation should be carefully considered for its own cost and merit, and new spending commitments deemed a priority should be offset with cuts in other areas of the budget.

Efforts to expand government programs and regulations without appropriate scrutiny come as Americans marked Cost of Government Day on July 16. This is the day when the average American has earned enough gross income to pay off his or her share of the total cost of government – federal, state, and local spending and the cost of regulation. Passing the "Reid Omnibus" without proper debate and off-setting spending reductions in other areas would only add to the already heavy burden on hard working Americans who are struggling to pay their gas and grocery bills.

Each American had to work 197 days this year just to pay off his or her share of tax-and-spend government habits. Rather than push Cost of Government Day even further into the year, the focus should be on reducing government size and waste.

I urge you to stand on the side of taxpayers and reject Sen. Reid's effort to push through the Reid Omnibus.

Onward,

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