

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS



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LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

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March 8, 2011

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the AFL-CIO, I am writing to urge you to vote against the Full Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011 (H.R. 1), scheduled to be on the Senate floor this week. This continuing resolution should have been an opportunity to put forth a responsible budget that promotes economic recovery, job growth, and investment in our nation's infrastructure, but instead H.R. 1 is a full-fledged assault on middle class Americans and an attempt to shut down the government with or without a funding resolution.

Among the most egregious funding cuts in H.R. 1 are the following:

- \$110 million in cuts to OSHA and MSHA will result in the elimination of job safety enforcement and investigations of fatalities or instances of mass casualties such as those in recent mining disasters
- Almost \$4 billion in cuts to job training and Employment Services will adversely affect programs that serve more than eight million people per year at a time when we should be funding programs that assist millions of unemployed Americans
- \$50 million in cuts to the National Labor Relations Board will undermine workers' ability to have a voice on the job
- \$1.1 billion from Head Start will result in 218,000 fewer kids in the program and potentially laying off 55,000 workers
- \$12.3 billion in cuts will further cripple our lagging transportation and infrastructure systems while eliminating over 340,000 jobs in the transportation sector

- \$786 million in cuts to energy efficiency and renewable energy plus \$2.3 billion in cuts to energy loan guarantees will cost good jobs and block our path to a clean energy economy
- Slashing Social Security administrative costs to \$1.7 billion below necessary funding will lead to staff furloughs, reduced office hours, slower claims processing and longer waits for assistance at the very time Baby Boomers begin to retire

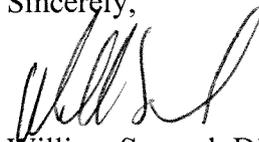
No job safety inspections while inspectors are furloughed for up to three months. No food safety inspections while inspectors are off the job for more than a month. Ten thousand teachers and aides cut from struggling schools and 7,100 special education teachers and staff gone. State and local job training and employment services phased out for up to 8 million workers. Medicare and Social Security operations crippled. Fewer local police officers. Wall Street reform stymied. Policing of the financial practices that sank our economy gutted. Overall cuts resulting in hundreds of thousands of lost jobs.

In addition to these irresponsible spending cuts, H.R. 1 also includes a number of policy “riders” intended to eviscerate politically sensitive and targeted programs. Some of the more egregious provisions include language to defund various aspects of the recently passed health care law, language that would prohibit EPA guidelines on the regulation of greenhouse gases under the Clean Air Act, and the prohibition of funds for a publicly available and searchable database that allows consumers to report harm associated with certain consumer products.

This isn’t “fiscal responsibility” or “deficit reduction”; it is an assault on America’s middle class. The number one concern of Americans in all parts of the country is jobs. But instead of creating jobs, this slash-and-burn continuing resolution would cost hundreds of thousands of jobs and destroy services ordinary Americans rely on every day. Cuts of the magnitude proposed in this continuing resolution would propel us squarely in the wrong direction—toward an America that is not prepared to compete or take care of the basic needs of its citizens.

For all of the above reasons, we urge you to vote against H.R. 1.

Sincerely,



William Samuel, Director
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT