



September 15, 2014

UPDATED: House Republicans Are Re-Passing Their Special Interest, No-Jobs Agenda This Week

House GOP Are Re-Passing 29 of Their Faux “Jobs” Bills

Last Thursday, Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy announced that this week the House will consider a “Jobs” package of bills previously passed by the House and an “Energy” package of bills previously passed by the House. In his September 4th memo on the September legislative agenda, McCarthy had listed 14 bills to be included in the “Jobs” package and 13 bills to be included in the “Energy” package. On Thursday, the Office of the Democratic Leader put out a fact sheet on the 27 so-called “Jobs” bills and “Energy” bills.

On Friday, the GOP Leadership posted the text of the “Jobs” package and of the “Energy” package. Republicans added one bill to the “Jobs” package – the Repeal of the Medical Device Tax – and one bill to the “Energy” package – the EPA Hydraulic Fracturing Study Improvement Act. **Below is an updated version of the fact sheet on the so-called “Jobs” package and so-called “Energy” package – including these two additional bills.**

These 29 bills are among the House GOP’s Faux 43 “Jobs” bills that have been highlighted on Speaker Boehner’s website – bills Republicans claim would create millions of jobs and which the Senate is blocking.

Below is an overview of these 29 House-passed bills that the House Republican Leadership has announced will be considered by the House as part of these two GOP packages this week.

The 15 Bills in GOP So-Called “Jobs and Economic Growth” Package

This GOP’s So-Called “Jobs and Economic Growth” Package of 15 bills includes:

- 12 partisan, special interest bills, which are message bills to nowhere and are not “jobs” bills; and
- 3 modest bills with bipartisan support still being considered in the Senate; not significant “jobs” bills.

12 Partisan, Special-Interest Bills; Message Bills to Nowhere; NOT “Jobs” Bills

- ✘ **Rulemaking for Special Interests Act Attempt 1 (~~Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act, H.R. 367~~)** – Instead of creating jobs, this bill tilts rulemaking in favor of special interests – requiring that, in order to go into effect, any significant rule must be approved by both Houses of Congress within 70 legislative days of being received, giving special interests with deep pockets – such as banks, hedge funds, major polluters – the ability to simply bottle up a rule in one House for a relatively short period of time in order to completely kill the rule.
- ✘ **Rulemaking for Special Interests Act Attempt 2 (~~Achieving Less Excess in Regulation & Requiring Transparency Act (ALERRT) Act, H.R. 2804~~)** – Instead of creating jobs, this bill tilts rulemaking in favor of special interests – adding 60 new analytical requirements to rulemaking to throw sand in the gears and making it much easier for big corporations – banks, hedge funds, major polluters – to evade their obligations to protect the public by giving deep-pocketed special interests with enough legal resources the option to challenge rules at many more points in the process.

- ✘ **Rulemaking for Special Interests Act Attempt 3 (~~Unfunded Mandates Information & Technology Act, H.R. 899~~)** – Instead of creating jobs, this bill tilts rulemaking in favor of special interests – by giving private industry an unfair advantage in the rulemaking process, politicizing independent regulatory agencies, and giving deep-pocketed regulated industries new abilities to tie up rules in litigation in the courts for years – with the bill opposed by Consumers Union and Consumer Federation of America.
- ✘ **On Behalf of Special Interests, Working to Undermine Wall Street Reforms Act (~~Small Business Capital Access and Job Preservation Act, H.R. 1105~~)** – Instead of creating jobs, this bill exempts private equity funds from the disclosure requirements that the Congress included in Wall Street Reform to allow regulators to assess systemic risks – with such disclosure necessary to make the financial market more transparent and protect investors.
- ✘ **Forcing One Million People to Lose Their Employer-Sponsored Coverage Act (~~Save American Workers Act, H.R. 2575~~)** – Instead of creating jobs, this bill, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, by changing the definition of “full-time” in the Affordable Care Act from 30 hours a week to 40 hours a week, would have the effect of forcing one million people to lose their employer-provided coverage, increasing the federal deficit by \$74 billion, and increasing the number of uninsured by up to 500,000.
- ✘ **Exploding the Deficit By Providing Corporations \$287 Billion in Permanent, Unpaid-For Tax Cuts Act (~~Making Permanent Bonus Depreciation, H.R. 4718~~)** – Instead of creating jobs, this bill is part of a GOP 14-bill package of permanent tax cuts, unpaid for, that explodes the deficit by \$800 billion over 10 years. This bill alone increases the deficit by \$287 billion – by making permanent bonus depreciation, unpaid for. Democrats support continuing bonus depreciation in the manner it was intended – as a temporary boost to our economy during economic downturns – but NOT as a permanent tax break.
- ✘ **Exploding the Deficit By Providing Corporations \$156 Billion in Permanent, Unpaid-For Tax Cuts Act (~~American Research and Competitiveness Act, H.R. 4438~~)** – Instead of creating jobs, this bill is part of a GOP 14-bill package of permanent tax cuts, unpaid for, that explodes the deficit by \$800 billion over 10 years. This bill alone increases the deficit by \$156 billion – by making permanent the R&D tax credit, unpaid for. Democrats strongly support the R&D tax credit but believe it should not be made permanent by adding to the deficit without any revenue offsets and also believe this proposal should be considered as part of comprehensive tax reform.
- ✘ **Exploding the Deficit By Providing Businesses \$73 Billion in Permanent, Unpaid-For Tax Cuts Act (~~America’s Small Business Tax Relief Act, H.R. 4457~~)** – Instead of creating jobs, this bill is part of a GOP 14-bill package of permanent tax cuts, unpaid for, that explodes the deficit by \$800 billion over 10 years. This bill alone increases the deficit by \$73 billion – by making permanent expanded “Section 179” expensing for small businesses, unpaid for. Democrats strongly support “Section 179” expensing but believe that it should not be made permanent by adding to the deficit without any revenue offsets and also believe that this proposal should be considered as part of comprehensive tax reform.
- ✘ **Exploding the Deficit By Providing Corporations \$2.2 Billion in Permanent, Unpaid-For Tax Cuts Act (~~S Corporation Permanent Tax Relief Act, H.R. 4453~~)** – Instead of creating jobs, this bill is part of a GOP 14-bill package of permanent tax cuts, unpaid for, that explodes the deficit by \$800 billion over 10 years. This bill alone increases the deficit by \$2.2 billion – by making permanent two provisions providing tax breaks for S-corporations, unpaid for. Democrats believe that this proposal should be considered as part of comprehensive tax reform.
- ✘ **A Gift to Large Medical Device Manufacturers, Exploding the Deficit By \$30 Billion (~~Repeal of the Medical Device Tax, Paulsen Amendment to H.J.Res. 59, Continuing Resolution~~)** – Instead of creating jobs, this bill is a giveaway to large, profitable medical device companies. Some new levies on health-related industries were used to help pay for the ACA because the ACA increases demand for health

products. A few large, very profitable firms account for the lion's share of the revenue collected by the medical device tax. Indeed, it is estimated that the 10 largest medical device makers account for 86 percent of the sales of covered medical devices and hence pay 86 percent of the taxes collected.

- ✘ **A Gift to the Timber Industry Act (~~Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act~~, H.R. 1526)** – Instead of creating jobs, this bill establishes “timber production zones” in each national forest, with each forest required to meet annual timber volume targets set at half of what the forest grows each year. Meeting these targets would require logging and related road building in currently protected roadless areas. In addition, the bill includes additional provisions reversing 100 years of national forest management precedent and undermining, or in some cases eliminating, multiple-use of our national forests, thereby harming recreation, hunting, fishing, and tourism.
- ✘ **A Gift to the Mining Industry Act (~~National Strategic and Critical Minerals Production Act~~, H.R. 761)** – Instead of creating jobs, this special-interest bill is a gift to the mining industry – with the bill, under the guise of promoting development of minerals critical to U.S. national security, being so broadly drafted that it would dramatically reduce or eliminate proper environmental reviews for almost all types of mines on public lands, even mines for sand and gravel, not remotely strategic.

3 Generally Modest Bills with Bipartisan Support; Still Under Consideration in Senate; Not Significant “Jobs” Bills

- ✘ **Hire More Heroes Act (H.R. 3474) – Still Under Consideration in Senate** – This is a bipartisan, noncontroversial bill that passed the House under suspension of the rules by a bipartisan vote of 406 to 1. It is designed to encourage the hiring of veterans by allowing employers that hire a veteran who has health coverage through TRICARE or the Veterans Administration to not count that veteran towards the 50-employee threshold for triggering the ACA employer responsibility requirement. It is still under consideration in the Senate.
- ✘ **Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act (H.R. 3086) – Still Under Consideration in Senate** – This is a bipartisan bill that passed the House under suspension of the rules by voice vote. It permanently extends the Internet Freedom Act, which is set to expire on November 1 – thereby permanently banning state and local governments from taxing Internet access. It is not clear why House Republicans have put this in their package since they have already included an extension of the Internet Freedom Act through December 11 in their version of the FY 2014 Continuing Resolution. H.R. 3086 is still under consideration in the Senate.
- ✘ **Small Business Mergers, Acquisitions, Sales, and Brokerage Simplification Act (H.R. 2274) – Still Under Consideration in Senate** – This is a bipartisan, modest bill that passed the House under suspension of the rules by a vote of 422 to 0. It creates a simplified system for brokers performing services in connection with the sale or transfer of ownership of smaller privately held companies. The bill is still under consideration in the Senate.

The 14 Bills in the GOP So-Called “Energy” Package

The GOP's So-Called “Energy” Package of 14 bills includes:

- 11 partisan, special interest bills, which are message bills to nowhere; and
- 3 modest bills with bipartisan support still being considered in the Senate

11 Partisan, Special-Interest Bills; Message Bills to Nowhere

- ✘ **A Gift to Big Oil Act (~~Lowering Gasoline Prices to Fuel An America That Works Act~~, H.R. 4899)** – Instead of creating jobs, this special-interest bill is an omnibus energy bill that rewards Big Oil and does nothing to help consumers at the pump. It mandates the most sweeping expansion of offshore

drilling in our nation's history – making broad sections of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans open for new, unsafe drilling, threatening tourism, fishing, our coast environment, and American jobs. It also gives away our public lands to Big Oil companies – elevating energy production above hunting, fishing, recreation, grazing and conservation in managing our public lands and irresponsibly expanding drilling on these public lands.

- ✘ **A Gift to Big Oil and Gas Act Attempt 1 (~~Protecting States' Rights to Promote American Energy Security Act~~, H.R. 2728)** – Instead of creating jobs, this extreme, special-interest bill blocks all federal oversight of oil and gas drilling using hydraulic fracking on federal lands and relinquishes control to the states, no matter how weak a state's guidance, thereby undermining the ability to ensure the safety of drinking water resources around the country.
- ✘ **A Gift to Big Oil and Gas Act Attempt 2 (~~EPA Hydraulic Fracturing Study Improvement Act~~, H.R. 2850)** – Instead of creating jobs, this extreme, special-interest bill is designed to significantly delay by years a study currently being conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency on the potential impacts of hydraulic fracking on the quality of drinking water – by adding onerous, unnecessary requirements that the EPA would have to follow in conducting the study.
- ✘ **A Gift to the Coal Industry Act Attempt 1 (~~Electricity Security & Affordability Act~~, H.R. 3826)** – Instead of creating jobs, this bill undermines our health, our economy and our environment by blocking responsible, measured efforts to reduce carbon pollution – despite the fact that carbon pollution has been shown to damage our health by causing more asthma attacks and damage our economy by causing more frequent extreme weather events, such as floods, hurricanes, and drought, and despite the fact that moving towards clean power will create tens of thousands of jobs and spark innovation.
- ✘ **A Gift to the Coal Industry Act Attempt 2 (~~Preventing Government Waste & Protecting Coal Mining Jobs in America Act~~, H.R. 2824)** – Instead of creating jobs, this special-interest bill gives a gift to big coal companies by replacing sensible Reagan-era protections for streams and communities in Appalachia from the impacts of mountaintop removal mining with much weaker protections – which would make the families of Appalachia pay the price through degraded water, flooding and health impacts.
- ✘ **Pro-Polluter Act (~~Energy Consumers Relief~~, H.R. 1582)** – Instead of creating jobs, this extreme bill blocks the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to put in place critical public health rules to reduce pollution that harms the air we breathe and the water we drink. By delaying or blocking these EPA rules, the bill would allow polluters to release more toxic pollutants that are linked to neurological impairment and cancer in children. The bill was opposed by the American Lung Association, American Heart Association, and American Public Health Association.
- ✘ **Rulemaking for Special Interests Act Attempt 4 (~~Northern Route Approval Act~~, H.R. 3)** – Instead of creating jobs, this extreme bill tilts rulemaking in favor of special interests – effectively exempting TransCanada's Keystone XL tar sands pipeline from all federal permitting requirements, including requirements that apply to every other construction project in this country.
- ✘ **Rulemaking for Special Interests Act Attempt 5 (~~Natural Gas Pipeline Permitting Reform Act~~, H.R. 1900)** – Instead of creating jobs, this tilts rulemaking in favor of special interests – allowing the automatic approval of natural gas pipeline projects if the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or other federal agencies do not issue the required permit within rigid, unworkable timeframes.
- ✘ **Rulemaking for Special Interests Act Attempt 6 (~~Responsibly and Professionally Invigorating Development (RAPID) Act~~, H.R. 2641)** – Instead of creating jobs, this bill tilts rulemaking in favor of special interests – giving private sector businesses increased control in the project approval process, tipping the scales in favor of private entities by restricting the alternatives that can be considered, and

blurring the distinct roles of private entities and agencies in agency decisions by allowing project sponsors to prepare environmental review documents.

- ✘ **Rulemaking for Special Interests Act Attempt 7 (~~North American Energy Infrastructure Act~~, H.R. 3301)** – Instead of creating jobs, this special-interest bill tilts rulemaking in favor of special interests – eliminating the current requirement that proposed oil and natural gas pipelines and electric transmission lines that cross the U.S. border with Mexico or Canada obtain a presidential permit, after an environmental review and determination that the project is in the national interest, and replaces it with an extremely weak, limited review process.
- ✘ **Waste of Time Act (~~The Domestic Prosperity and Global Freedom Act~~, H.R. 6)** – Although the bill’s proponents claim that it is needed to accelerate Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) exports, this bill would not have that effect. The bill is unnecessary because the Department of Energy is already aggressively approving LNG exports. To date, DOE has approved seven export applications. The amounts already approved for export would transform the U.S. into the world’s second largest exporter of LNG, just behind Qatar. If one more application is granted, the U.S. would become the world’s largest exporter of LNG.

3 Generally Modest Bills With Bipartisan Support; Still Under Consideration in the Senate

- ✘ **Requiring A Report on Energy and Water Savings Potential from Thermal Insulation (H.R. 4801) – Still Under Consideration in Senate** – This is a modest, bipartisan, noncontroversial bill that passed the House under suspension of the rules by voice vote. It requires the Department of Energy to prepare a report on the potential energy and water savings from the increased use of thermal insulation in federal buildings. It is still under consideration in the Senate.
- ✘ **Central Oregon Jobs and Water Security Act (H.R. 2640) – Still Under Consideration in Senate** – This is a modest, bipartisan, noncontroversial bill that passed the House under suspension of the rules by voice vote. It contains provisions designed to provide a long-term water supply for the City of Prineville, Oregon and the surrounding area and generate clean and emissions-free hydropower. It is still under consideration in the Senate.
- ✘ **Bureau of Reclamation Conduit Hydropower Development Equity and Jobs Act (H.R. 1963) – Still Under Consideration in Senate** – This is a modest, bipartisan, noncontroversial bill that passed the House under suspension of the rules by voice vote. It allows for conduit hydropower development on 11 Bureau of Reclamation projects. It is still under consideration in the Senate. The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources reported a modified version of the bill to the Senate on July 31, 2014.

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