

Republican Motion #15

STOP WASTING TAXPAYER DOLLARS

Offered by Representative Jay Obernolte (CA-08)

Mr. Obernolte moves that the Committee on the Budget direct its Chairman to request on behalf of the Committee that the rule providing for consideration of the bill make in order an amendment to create a select committee in the House and Senate to determine how federal spending can be further reduced moving forward.

Background

- (1) The nearly \$2 trillion Public Law No. 117-2 “American Rescue Plan Act of 2021” was pushed through Congress as “emergency relief” for the Coronavirus Disease (COVID–19). State, local, and tribal governments were appropriated \$510 billion “to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from the public health emergency with respect to COVID–19.” The following are some examples of how states have spent their “pandemic response needs”:
 - a. \$691 million to non-existent county governments in the state of Connecticut
 - b. \$250 million to upgrade state parks and trails in Michigan
 - c. \$157 million for multimillion-dollar courtroom expansion and new government buildings, government vehicles, and government audio-visual tools in Fort Bend County, Texas
 - d. \$68 million for beach parking and bathrooms in Horry County, South Carolina
 - e. \$20 million to modernize fish hatcheries in Maine
 - f. \$15 million to the Meadowslands Sports Complex in New Jersey
 - g. \$4 million for additions to a park in Providence, Rhode Island
 - h. \$3.7 million for a Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts
 - i. \$659,000 to repair the City Hall roof and ceiling in Binghamton, New York
- (2) The above list totals approximately \$1.2 billion but is nowhere near exhaustive.
- (3) We are now debating a spending bill that is 2.3 times the cost of Public Law No. 117-2. All of this spending will only continue to contribute to our growing national debt. A rising national debt means slower economic growth, higher interest rates, crowded private investment markets, and skyrocketing inflation.
- (4) Rather than spending time debating the most expensive piece of legislation in U.S. history, which will likely be irresponsibly implemented, members of the Budget Committee should be actively seeking solutions to cut wasteful spending and get our fiscal house in order.
- (5) A solution to cut current wasteful spending and prevent it in the future could include House Resolution 263, which would create a Federal Savings Committee tasked with drafting legislation on areas where Congress could cut wasteful spending.

- (6) If we don't seriously work to put our fiscal house in order, Americans will continue to see higher prices at the grocery store, fewer available jobs, less federal investment in critical items such as improving our roads, a decrease in the value of our homes, and a larger monthly mortgage payment.
- (7) We are spending beyond our means causing our national debt to skyrocket. This is unconscionable and the epitome of irresponsible governance. Instead of continuing down this dangerous path we should be taking measures to cut down on reckless spending.