

# OCPA FaxLine Report

a public policy information service for members of the Oklahoma Council of Public Affairs, Inc.

Dear OCPA Member:

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

The recent stimulus plan that Congress passed without reading had lots of wasteful and non-stimulative spending. So to provide a little transparency for *FaxLine Report* readers, here is a list Sen. Coburn posted on his website, noting: "Many of these items are typically debated and funded through the regular budget process. Including these items in an emergency "stimulus" spending bill plays an Enron-style shell game with taxpayer dollars."

- \$8 billion for high-speed railway (including an earmark for an Los Angeles to Las Vegas MagLev)
  - \$1 billion for the "FutureGen" not-ready-for-primetime near zero emission plant in Illinois
    - \$53.6 billion for the "state stabilization" slush fund
      - \$1.3 billion for Amtrak
        - \$24 million for USDA buildings and rent
      - \$176 million for renovating Agricultural Research Service buildings
        - \$290 million for flood prevention activities
        - \$50 million for watershed rehabilitation
      - \$1.4 billion for wastewater disposal programs
- \$295 million for administrative expenses associated with food stamp program
  - \$1 billion for the 2010 Census
- \$200 million for public computer centers at community colleges and libraries
  - \$650 million for the DTV converter box coupon program
    - \$360 million for construction of NIST buildings
    - \$830 million for NOAA research and facilities
      - \$2 billion for Byrne JAG program
      - \$10 million to combat Mexican gunrunners
  - \$125 million for rural communities to combat drug crimes
    - \$1 billion for the COPS program
      - \$1 billion for NASA
- \$300 million to purchase scientific instruments for colleges and museums
  - \$400 million for equipment and facilities at the NSF
- \$3.7 billion to conduct "green" renovations on military bases
  - \$375 million for Mississippi River projects
    - \$10 million for urban canals
    - \$5 billion for weatherizing buildings
  - \$2 billion to develop advanced batteries for hybrid cars
- \$3.4 billion for fossil energy research (possibly including an earmark for FutureGen)
  - \$5.1 billion for environmental cleanup around military bases
    - \$5.5 billion for "green" federal buildings
    - \$300 million for "green" cars for federal employees
  - \$20 million for IT upgrades at the Small Business Administration
    - \$200 million to design and furnish DHS headquarters
      - \$210 million for State and local fire stations
      - \$125 million to restore trails and abandoned mines
  - \$146 million for trail maintenance at National Park Service sites
    - \$140 million for volcano monitoring systems
- \$600 million for the EPA Superfund environmental cleanup program
  - \$200 million to clean up leaking underground storage tanks
    - \$500 million for forest health and wildfire prevention
      - \$25 million for the Smithsonian Institution
      - \$50 million for the National Endowment for the Arts
  - \$1.2 billion for "youth activities" (for "youth" up to 24 years old)
    - \$500 million earmark for NIH facilities in Bethesda, MD
      - \$1 billion for Head Start
      - \$32 million for home-delivered nutrition services
- \$160 million for volunteer programs at the Corporation for National and Community Service
  - \$500 million earmark for the SSA National Computer Center in MD
- \$220 million for the International Boundary and Water Commission, U.S. and Mexico

Now I understand the nature of the "change" that was promised . . . *ka-ching!*

Until next time . . . Brett A. Magbee, Vice President for Operations

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