



October 19, 2011

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# National Taxpayers Union Vote Alert

**In the debate on H.R. 2112, the Agriculture, CJS, and Transportation Appropriations bill, numerous amendments will be offered, many of which involve fiscal matters. NTU has issued and will continue to issue Vote Alerts on these proposals as we are made aware of them. At this point in the process we commend your attention to the following three items:**

- **Vote “YES” on Amendment 791.** Introduced by Sen. Coburn (R-OK), this amendment would prevent direct payments under the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 from going to those with incomes above \$1,000,000. While the economic case for direct payments to farmers and landowners is tenuous regardless of income level, there is no justification for using taxpayer dollars to subsidize large agribusinesses.
- **Vote “NO” on Amendment 769.** Although not as comprehensive as other proposals to allow prescription drug importation, this amendment, sponsored by Sen. Vitter (R-LA), would send a signal that Congress may once again be taking health policy in a counterproductive direction at an especially critical time. As NTU has long held, drug importation is laden with fiscally and economically detrimental consequences for taxpayers and consumers alike. The most sweeping plans effectively encourage drugs to be shipped at prices set by foreign countries, thereby negatively impacting future incentives and resources for researchers in this country to develop cures for some of the world’s most debilitating illnesses.
- **Vote “YES” on Amendment 792.** Sponsored by Sen. Coburn (R-OK), this amendment would prohibit the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) from making payments to owners of properties that have a history of being designated as “troubled” for “life threatening deficiencies” or “poor” physical condition. Pending wider-scale reforms to HUD programs, the government should at the very least avoid subsidizing property owners who continue to offer substandard living conditions to their tenants.

**Roll call votes on the aforementioned amendments will be significantly weighted in our annual Rating of Congress.**

If you have any questions, please contact  
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