

**TALKING POINTS FOR FLOOR POSTER ON SEQUESTERING WASTE  
HIGHLIGHTS SIX OVERSIGHT REPORTS**

**SAFETY AT ANY PRICE: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY**

[Exposes](#) dozens of examples of wasteful spending within the Urban Area Security Initiative, a component of the Homeland Security Grant Program with a \$700 million annual budget.

These included domestic drones, an underwater robot, sno-cone machines, security upgrades for a spring baseball training stadium, color printers and military-style BearCat vehicles.

Columbus, OH's Underwater Robot: Columbus, Ohio recently purchased an "underwater robot" using a \$98,000 UASI grant.

Surveillance at a Spring Training Stadium in Arizona: \$90,000 to install video surveillance at the Peoria Sports Conference (Seattle Mariners & San Diego Padres play spring-training).

**DEPARTMENT OF EVERYTHING: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**

[Details](#) how DOD can save \$67.9 billion over ten years by making specific cuts to "non-defense" defense spending – spending DOD can cut without cutting vital defense priorities.

- Non-Military Research and Development: Research projects that have little or nothing to do with national defense or medical needs related to military service (\$6 billion).
- Education: The Defense Domestic Dependent Elementary and Secondary Schools that educates children of military families here in the United States and the STEM programs that duplicate the work of the Department of Education and local school districts (\$10.7 billion).
- The Department of Defense Tuition Assistance Program which provides college funding for military members on active duty and duplicates the Department of Veterans Affairs (\$4.5 billion).
- Alternative Energy: Duplicative and unnecessary alternative energy research by the Department of Defense (\$700 million).
- Grocery Stores. Pentagon-run grocery stores here in the United States (\$9 billion).
- Overhead, Support, and Supply Services. Over 300,000 military members performing civilian-type job functions and too many general officers. (\$37 billion).

## WASTEBOOK 2012

[\\$18 billion](#) from 100 examples of the most egregious ways taxpayer dollars were wasted in 2012.

- \$450,000 for an unused airport in Oklahoma
- \$325,000 for robot squirrels
- \$91 million in tax breaks for professional sports leagues like the NFL
- \$27 million for Moroccan pottery classes

## SUBSIDIES OF THE RICH AND FAMOUS

On average, each year, this [report](#) found that millionaires enjoy benefits from tax giveaways and federal grant programs totaling \$30 billion. As a result, almost 1,500 millionaires paid no federal income tax in 2009.

These billions of dollars for millionaires include \$74 million of unemployment checks, \$316 million in farm subsidies, \$89 million for preservation of ranches and estates, \$9 billion of retirement checks, \$75.6 million in residential energy tax credits, and \$7.5 million to compensate for damages caused by emergencies to property that should have been insured.

Over \$9.5 billion in federal government benefits have been paid to millionaires since 2003.

Millionaires also borrowed \$16 million in government backed education loans to attend college.

## TREASURE MAP: MARKET ACCESS PROGRAM

At the request of Congress, the United States Department of Agriculture has spent more than \$2 billion on the [Market Access Program](#) (MAP), which has indirectly subsidized the advertising costs of some of the most profitable agriculture companies and trade associations doing business overseas.

Despite their combined \$2 billion in sales in 2009, companies such as Welch's, Sunkist, and Blue Diamond received more than \$6 million in 2012 from taxpayers for product promotion.

Also receiving millions from taxpayers for private overseas advertising are the agricultural trade groups whose members include Tyson Foods, Purina, Hershey's, Georgia-Pacific and Jack Daniels.

The California wine industry, which had domestic sales of \$17.9 billion in 2009, drank in nearly \$7million in 2012 through its industry promotion group, the Wine Institute, Cotton Council International; on behalf of the American cotton industry received \$20.2 million from MAP (and another \$4.7 from another USDA market development program).

## MONEY FOR NOTHING: UNSPENT AND UNOBLIGATED FUNDS

[Highlights](#) more than \$70 billion in federal funds left unspent years after being appropriated by Congress due to poorly drafted laws, bureaucratic obstacles and mismanagement, and a general lack of interest or demand from the communities to which this money was allocated.

The Government Accountability Office identified nearly \$1 billion of federal funds left unused at the end of 2011. This includes \$802 million in expired grant accounts plus \$126 million in another government payment system for which there has been no activity in years.

Over \$110 million has sat unspent for more than five years with nearly \$10 million unspent for more than a decade. These unspent dollars are spread across numerous federal agencies and more than 400 programs.

In total, the federal government was projected to end 2012 with more than \$2 trillion in unexpended funds, according to the White House Office of Management and Budget. While more than two-thirds of this amount is obligated for specific purposes, \$687 billion remains unobligated, meaning it is essentially money for nothing.