

Summary of Amendments #1 to #5 (H.R. 4899)

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT #1

The amendment pays for settlement of the Cobell v. Salazar and Pigford v. Vilsack class action lawsuits. Second, the amendment will allow local Workforce Investment Boards to expand summer jobs programs that were funded in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and support over 350,000 jobs for youth ages 14 to 24 through summer employment programs. The amendment would make two changes to title IV, the “Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2010,” of the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act. First, it would distribute the Projects of National and Regional Significance (PNRS) and National Corridor Infrastructure Improvement (National Corridor) program funding so that each State receives a share equal to the greater of either (1) the amount of PNRS and National Corridor program funding that the State received under the HIRE Act or (2) the amount of PNRS and National Corridor funding that the State receives under this Act. The provision authorizes such sums as may be necessary from the Highway Trust Fund to provide these amounts. Second, the amendment would distribute “additional” highway formula funds (which the bill makes available in lieu of additional congressionally-designated projects) among all of the highway formula programs rather than among just six formula programs. Third, the amendment incorporates the President’s 2011 Budget proposal to require a minimum 10-year term for Grantor-Retained Annuity Trusts. It also would require that the value of the remainder interest must be greater than zero and that the annuity not decrease during the first 10 years of the GRAT term. Finally, in 2008, Congress enacted a \$1.01 per gallon tax credit for the production of biofuel from cellulosic feedstocks in order to encourage the development of new production capacity for biofuels that are not derived from food source materials. This provision would limit eligibility for the tax credit to fuels that are not highly corrosive.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT #2

Obey - The amendment adds \$10 billion for an Education Jobs Fund, \$4.95 billion for Pell Grants, \$701 million for border security, \$180 million for innovative technology energy loans, \$163 million for schools on military installations, \$142 million in additional Gulf Coast oil spill funding, \$50 million in emergency food assistance, and \$16.5 million to build a new soldier processing center at Fort Hood. In order to hold the total amount to the President’s requested level over a ten-year period, the amendment includes \$11.7 billion in rescissions from programs that no longer require the funding, have sufficient funds on hand, or do not need the funding this year or next, and \$4.7 billion in savings from changes to mandatory programs. In total, the amendment saves the Federal Government \$493 million over ten years compared to the President’s request. The amendment also provides \$538 million for program integrity investments that are proven to produce 1½ times that in savings.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT #3

The amendment would strike military funding for Afghanistan from the bill.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT #4

Lee (CA) - The amendment would begin to end the war in Afghanistan by preventing an escalation of troops in Afghanistan and by limiting funding to the safe withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT #5

McGovern-Obey-Jones (NC) - The amendment would require the president to present Congress with 1) a new National Intelligence Estimate on Afghanistan by January 31, 2011 and 2) a plan by April 4, 2011 on the safe, orderly and expeditious redeployment of U.S. troops from Afghanistan, including a timeframe for the completion of the redeployment. The amendment also requires Congress to vote by July 2011 if it wants to allow the obligation and expenditure of funds for Afghanistan in a manner that is not consistent with the president's announced policy of December 2009 to begin to drawdown troops by July 2011. The amendment also requires quarterly reports to Congress on the status of the plan submitted to Congress and strengthens and expands oversight of private contractors in Afghanistan to deal more effectively with corruption, waste, fraud and abuse. Last, the amendment clarifies that no part of the amendment shall limit the president's ability to attack al Qaeda, gather and share intelligence with allies in Afghanistan and Pakistan, or modify U.S. military strategy on-the-ground over the period of redeployment.