



## Senate Update – March 17, 2008

### Last Week in the Senate

The Senate began consideration of the Budget Resolution for FY2009 (S.Con.Res. 70) on Monday, March 10, 2008. S.Con.Res. 70 was passed out of the Senate Budget Committee on March 6, 2008, by a party line vote of 12 to 10.

On Thursday, March 13, 2008, the Senate voted on 42 amendments to S.Con.Res. 70. A few notable amendments are listed below:

- Senator Jim DeMint (R-SC) offered an amendment to establish a one-year earmark moratorium for fiscal year 2009 by establishing a 67-vote point of order against bills with earmarks. The amendment was rejected by a vote of 29 to 71. ([Record Vote 75](#))
- Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) offered an amendment that would change the individual alternative minimum tax from its current two-rate structure of 26 percent and 28 percent to the single 24-percent rate that was in effect prior to 1993. The amendment was rejected by a vote of 49 to 50 with Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) missing the vote. ([Record Vote 45](#)) Republicans requested a motion to reconsider the amendment and the result was a 50 to 50 tie. Vice President Dick Cheney cast only his seventh vote in the Senate and the motion to reconsider the bill was agreed to. ([Record Vote 47](#)). However, Senator Ben Nelson (D-NE) changed his vote when the amendment was reconsidered and the amendment was rejected by a vote of 49 to 51. ([Record Vote 48](#))
- Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) offered an amendment that would raise taxes by \$1.4 trillion in order to fully fund 111 new or expanded federal spending programs. Senator Allard estimates that \$1.4 trillion is the amount needed to pay for proposals offered by Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) on the Presidential campaign trail. The amendment was rejected by a vote of 0 to 97. ([Record Vote 62](#))

*\*Note: Please find a complete list of [amendments](#) that were voted on by the Senate here.*

The Senate passed S.Con.Res. 70 by a vote of 51 to 44, with Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) voting present, in the early hours of March 14, 2008. ([Record Vote 85](#))

### This Week in the Senate

The Senate will be holding pro forma sessions throughout the two week recess.

Prior to the Memorial Day recess, it is possible that the Senate will consider the Patent Reform Act of 2007 (S. 1145), Food Safety legislation that has yet to be introduced, and Bankruptcy Code Reform legislation under consideration by the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.