



Boarding Pass: Friday, June 24, 2011

This Week

- **Maximizing Domestic Energy Production** — On Wednesday, June 22, the House approved [H.R. 2021](#), the Jobs and Energy Permitting Act of 2011, by a vote of [253-166](#). The legislation would eliminate needless permitting delays that have stalled important energy production opportunities off the coast of Alaska. Through technical corrections to the Clean Air Act, the bill would eliminate uncertainty and confusion under the Act that has delayed – sometimes for years – oil exploration in the Alaskan Outer Continental Shelf and other offshore areas. The bill would also eliminate the permitting back-and-forth that occurs between Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its Environmental Appeals Board. Rather than having exploration air permits repeatedly approved and rescinded by the agency and its review board, the EPA will be required to take final action within six months of receiving a permit application. All appeals will go to the D.C. Circuit Court for resolution because of the national implications of oil production on the Outer Continental Shelf and the need for consistency in decision-making.
- **Encouraging Entrepreneurship and Growth** – On Thursday, June 23, the House approved [H.R. 1249](#), the America Invents Act, by a vote of [304-117](#). The bill would implement a first-inventor-to-file standard for patent approval, create a post-grant review system to weed out bad patents, and help the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) address its backlog of patent applications. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that enacting the bill would reduce net direct spending by \$725 million and revenues by \$8 million over the 2011-2021 period. Most changes in direct spending would result from providing Patent and Trademark Office with permanent authority to collect and spend certain fees. In total, the changes would decrease budget deficits by \$717 million over the 2011-2021 period.
- **FAA Reauthorization** — Also on Friday, the House approved H.R. 2279, a short-term extension of FAA authorization, by unanimous consent, extending programs until July 22, 2011. On February 27, 2011, the Senate approved S.232, a full FAA authorization bill by a vote of 87-8. The House approved an alternative version, H.R. 658, FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2011, by a vote of 223-196 on April 1, 2011. A conference committee is expected to report a final agreement soon. H.R. 658 would reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) operations and programs for four years, including the remainder of FY 2011 through FY 2014. In addition, the bill makes a number of policy changes, including a repeal of a National Mediation Board (NMB) rule allowing airline employees to unionize without a majority vote. CBO estimates that the bill would decrease direct spending by \$4 billion and increase revenue by \$34 million over the FY 2011 through FY 2016 period.
- **Limiting U.S. involvement in Libya** — Also on Friday, the House disapproved [H.R. 2278](#), by a vote of [180-238](#). The resolution would have prohibited funds appropriated or otherwise available to the Department of Defense (DoD) from being obligated or expended for U.S. Armed Forces support of North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Operation Unified Protector with respect to Libya. However, exceptions to the funds limitation would have been for the following activities: search and rescue (SAR); intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR); aerial refueling; operational planning; and non-combat missions.
- **Libya Authorization** — Additionally on Friday, the House disapproved [H.J.Res. 68](#), by a vote of [123-295](#). This resolution would have authorized the President to continue limited use of the U.S. Armed Forces in Libya, in support of U.S. national security policy interests, as part of the NATO mission to enforce United Nations Security Council Resolution 1973 (2011).

Next Week

- **Constituent Work Week** – Next week the House will not be in session in order for Members to spend the week working in their respective districts. Member offices will receive resource kits today for use during next week's constituent engagements, and additional resources will be available at <http://www.gop.gov/workweek>.

Official Floor Statement on Motion to Recommit H.R. 2021

Mr. GARDNER of Colorado. "Energy security and job creation, that's what the Jobs and Energy Permitting Act is about. The amendment, the motion to recommit that has been offered, is something that we talked about today: whether or not a study actually results in lower prices at the pump.

"Colleagues, I don't think our constituents will appreciate it if we put a big sign on the pump at the gas station that reads 'you're going to pay \$3.50 a gallon for gas; you're going to pay \$4 a gallon for gas' while we study it, while a blue ribbon commission proceeds.

"This bill will allow our domestic resources to be accessed in a responsible manner, in a timely manner to help relieve the price at the pump. Americans are tired of overregulation. Americans are tired of job-killing regulations. Americans are tired of the pain at the pump that they face each and every day. This bill presents an opportunity to create 54,000 jobs. In the time that it has taken to get a permit approved in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, 400 wells have been drilled around the world. They created jobs in other countries; they created energy in other countries, but they didn't do it in our own backyard. This is our opportunity to get American resources online in a responsible manner.

"This amendment is one more stall, one more study, one more way to tell the American people that we're not interested in helping relieve the pain at the pump. We're going to study it. We're going to commission it. Then we're not going to do anything. This is 54,000 jobs and 1 million barrels of oil a day brought online from Alaska, creating jobs not just there but throughout the 48 States.

"The other day, I heard people talking about making it in America. 'Make It in America.' Do you know what we need to make it in America? We need an energy policy that allows an abundant, affordable energy resource. To make it in America, we need opportunities to secure policies that don't over-regulate and kill jobs. If you want to make it in America, reject this motion to recommit; develop American resources; put America back to work; and vote 'yes' on the underlying bill."

Official Floor Statement on Motion to Recommit H.R. 1249

Mr. SMITH of Texas. "Mr. Speaker, I oppose the motion to recommit and urge my colleagues to defeat it. The America Invents Act is the culmination of 6 years of effort. During this time, the House and Senate Judiciary Committees conducted 23 hearings on patent reform and brokered numerous negotiations among Members and stakeholders. H.R. 1249 has garnered bipartisan and widespread support. This bill improves patent integrity in PTO operations. The bill helps businesses from a broad range of industries, independent inventors, and universities.

"But the biggest winners are the American people. They will get more job opportunities and greater consumer choices. This amendment would mean that U.S. companies and inventors would be discriminated against all over the world when they file. It would be open season on American innovators and businesses. We would no longer be able to sell products abroad, and IP theft of U.S. goods would become rampant.

"Mr. Speaker, this motion to recommit also consigns our patent system to the one created in the 1952 Patent Act, an era of landline telephones, TVs that offered three fuzzy black-and-white channels, and the manual typewriter. We need to update our patent system, and we need to do it now.

"Oppose the motion to recommit and support H.R. 1249."