

1/22/08

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT SUBMITTED BY MR. OBEY,
CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS,
REGARDING THE CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS AMENDMENT OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2764

Following is an explanation of the amendment of the House of Representatives (relating to consolidated appropriations for fiscal year 2008) to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 2764, the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008, including disclosure of congressional earmarks and congressionally directed spending items as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives and rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Section 4 of the House amendment specifies that this explanatory statement shall have the same effect with respect to the allocation of funds and implementation of this Consolidated Appropriations Act as if it were a joint explanatory statement of a committee of conference.

In this statement, the provisions of the House amendment to the Senate amendment are generally referred to as “the amended bill”. Where comparisons are made to House and Senate action, unless otherwise stated these comparisons are to the versions of the applicable 2008 Appropriations Act as passed by the House and as passed by the Senate (or as reported by the Senate Committee on Appropriations, in the case of bills that have not been passed by the Senate).

The House amendment strikes the text of the Senate amendment and inserts a Consolidated Appropriations Act covering 11 regular appropriations bills, each in a separate division, as follows:

- Division A—Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008;
- Division B—Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008;
- Division C—Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008;
- Division D—Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2008;
- Division E—Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008;
- Division F—Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008;

- Division G—Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008;
- Division H—Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2008;
- Division I—Military Construction and Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008;
- Division J—Department of State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2008;
- Division K—Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008.

Section 1 of the amended bill provides that the bill as a whole may be referred to as the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008. Section 3 states that, unless expressly provided otherwise, any reference to “this Act” contained in any division of the amended bill shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division. Section 5 contains an emergency designation (for purposes of section 204 of S. Con. Res 21, the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2008) which applies to certain appropriations within the divisions of the Act that make reference to section 5.