



Republicans Join Democrats to Save Corporate Welfare (Again)

Posted by **Tad DeHaven**

Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA) introduced three amendments to the recently passed Energy & Water appropriations bill that would have eliminated a slew of business subsidies at the Department of Energy. Unfortunately, House Republicans **once again** teamed up with their Democratic colleagues to keep the corporate welfare spigot flowing.

From *The Hill*:

The largest spending cut proposal came from Rep. Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), which would have eliminated the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy account at the Department of Energy and used the \$1.45 billion in savings toward deficit reduction. Like other Republicans, McClintock argued that this account needlessly spends money on questionable private investments that have not led to any measurable returns. But the House rejected McClintock's amendment in a 113-275 vote, in which 113 Republicans voted for it but 107 Republicans joined every Democrat in opposition.

From a second article from *The Hill*:

Rep. Tom McClintock (R-Calif.) proposed ending all nuclear energy research subsidies to private companies, which would have saved \$514 million and used that money to lower the deficit. But the House rejected that amendment in a 106-281 vote that divided Republicans 91-134. McClintock also proposed language cutting fossil energy research subsidies, which would have saved \$554 million. But the House killed that amendment 138-249, as Republicans split again 102-123.

A few comments:

First, Democrats voted overwhelmingly to continue to subsidize commercial interests. And here I thought Democrats were concerned about the have and have-nots.

Second, Rep. McClintock deserves a round of applause for his efforts. These votes speak volumes about a member's beliefs about the proper role of the federal government. A lot of members—especially Republicans—talk a good game when it comes to spending, limited government, free markets, etc. However, when the time comes to put their money

where their mouths are, many choose to instead put *other people's money* in the mouths of special interests.

For those taxpayers who are interested in seeing how their member voted, the following are the roll call tallies for McClintock's amendments:

- Reduce the energy efficiency and renewable energy account by \$1.45 billion: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll311.xml>.
- Reduce the construction and expansion account of nuclear energy by \$514 million: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll315.xml>.
- Reduce the fossil energy research and development account by \$554 million: <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2012/roll317.xml>.

[See here for more on why **energy subsidies** should be eliminated.]

Update: Steve Ellis from Taxpayers for Common Sense alerted me to an amendment introduced by Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) and McClintock that would have shut down the Department of Energy's Title 17 loan guarantee program. That's the program that gave us Solyndra. The amendment failed **136-282** with 127 Republicans joining 155 Democrats to defeat the amendment. That the Republican-led House couldn't get rid of the program that begot Solyndra is about as low as it gets.