

APPROPRIATIONS ALERT

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COMMERCE-JUSTICE-SCIENCE ANOTHER BILL - ANOTHER INCREASE (H.R. 3093)

The fiscal year 2008 Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill provides \$53.6 billion in net discretionary spending, \$2.2 billion more than the President's request. It does not include any advance appropriations or emergency-designated spending, and is within its Section 302(b) allocation. Still, it is another addition to the Democrats' planned discretionary spending increase of \$81.4 billion compared with 2007 (including \$26 billion for domestic programs) – more than triple the inflation rate. The President issued a veto threat for H.R. 3093 due to the bill's spending level, which with other appropriations bills would exceed his \$933-billion topline.

Key points about the Commerce-Justice-Science bill include the following:

- ***The Bill Exceeds the President's Request.*** As noted, the bill increases spending by \$2.2 billion over the amount requested by the President for these programs.
- ***It Increases NASA by \$250 Million.*** Funding for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA] increases by approximately \$250 million above the President's requested level. Overall, the bill reduces funding for NASA's exploration capabilities relative to the requested level, while increasing funding for the Science, Aeronautics, and Exploration account, primarily increasing funding for constellation systems, earth science and aeronautics research.
- ***It Rejects Regional Development Streamlining.*** The bill funds the Economic Development Administration [EDA] assistance programs at \$270 million, an increase of \$100 million above the President's request, and almost \$20 million above the regular 2007 level. The bill as reported rejects the administration's proposal to create a Regional Development Account that would consolidate multiple economic development programs at several other Federal agencies. Moreover, the committee report accompanying the bill directs the EDA to consider with "favorable bias" proposals addressing global climate change.
- ***It Gives a Hefty Boost to Local Law Enforcement.*** The Administration of Justice is funded at \$20.2 billion, significantly higher than the requested level of \$18.7 billion. The increase is primarily reflected in funding increases for State and local law enforcement assistance, and juvenile justice programs.
- ***It Uses a Mandatory Gimmick for 'Savings.'*** As in previous years, the bill limits and delays the obligations of receipts in the Crime Victims Fund to \$625 million. This change in an otherwise mandatory program provides the bill \$1.3 billion in budget authority savings and \$464 million in outlay savings for fiscal year 2008.