

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2008

To amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit inserting politics into the Federal acquisition process by prohibiting the submission of political contribution information as a condition of receiving a Federal contract.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 26, 2011

Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. COLE, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. AMASH, Mr. GOWDY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. ROSS of Florida, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. KELLY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit inserting politics into the Federal acquisition process by prohibiting the submission of political contribution information as a condition of receiving a Federal contract.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Keeping Politics Out
5 of Federal Contracting Act of 2011”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN USES OF POLITICAL IN-**
2 **FORMATION.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 47 of title 41, United
4 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing new section:

6 **“§ 4712. Prohibition on certain uses of political infor-**
7 **mation**

8 “(a) PROHIBITION ON REQUIRING SUBMISSION OF
9 POLITICAL INFORMATION.—The head of an executive
10 agency may not require a contractor to submit political
11 information related to the contractor or a subcontractor
12 at any tier, or any partner, officer, director, or employee
13 of the contractor or subcontractor—

14 “(1) as part of a solicitation, request for bid,
15 request for proposal, or any other form of commu-
16 nication designed to solicit offers in connection with
17 the award of a contract for procurement of property
18 or services;

19 “(2) during the course of contract performance
20 as part of the process associated with modifying a
21 contract or exercising a contract option; or

22 “(3) any time prior to contract completion and
23 final contract closeout.

24 “(b) PROHIBITION ON USE OF POLITICAL INFORMA-
25 TION.—The head of an executive agency may not use po-
26 litical information, whether obtained from a contractor or

1 prospective contractor or from an independent public or
2 nonpublic source, as a factor or consideration in the source
3 selection process used to award a competitive or non-com-
4 petitive contract at any value or in making any decision
5 associated with the modification of a contract or the exer-
6 cise of a contract option.

7 “(c) PROHIBITION ON INCLUSION OF POLITICAL IN-
8 FORMATION IN CONTRACTING DATABASES.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under
10 paragraph (2), an executive agency may not include
11 political information in the contracting past per-
12 formance database or any database designed to pro-
13 vide information to a contracting officer for pur-
14 poses of supporting the responsibility determination
15 by such officer.

16 “(2) EXCEPTION FOR DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN
17 VIOLATIONS.—

18 “(A) EXCEPTION.—Data required as of
19 the date of the enactment of the Keeping Poli-
20 tics Out of Federal Contracting Act of 2011 to
21 be included in the database maintained under
22 section 2313 of this title are not subject to the
23 prohibition under paragraph (1).

24 “(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Notwith-
25 standing subparagraph (A), this paragraph

1 shall not be construed as authorizing the inclu-
2 sion of political information pursuant to sub-
3 section (c)(6) of such section.

4 “(d) APPLICABILITY.—The prohibitions under this
5 section apply to the procurement of commercial items, the
6 procurement of commercial off-the-shelf items, and the
7 non-commercial procurement of supplies, property, serv-
8 ices, and manufactured items, irrespective of contract ve-
9 hicle, including contracts, purchase orders, task or deliver
10 orders under indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity con-
11 tracts, blanket purchase agreements, and basic ordering
12 agreements.

13 “(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
14 tion shall be construed as waiving, superseding, restrict-
15 ing, or limiting the application of the Federal Election
16 Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431 et seq.) or pre-
17 venting Federal regulatory or law enforcement agencies
18 from collecting or receiving information authorized by law.

19 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 “(1) ACQUISITION.—The term ‘acquisition’ has
21 the meaning given the term in section 131 of this
22 title.

23 “(2) CONTRACTOR.—The term ‘contractor’ in-
24 cludes contractors, bidders, and offerors, and indi-
25 viduals and legal entities who would reasonably be

1 expected to submit offers or bids for Federal Gov-
2 ernment contracts.

3 “(3) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term ‘executive
4 agency’ has the meaning given the term in section
5 133 of this title.

6 “(4) POLITICAL INFORMATION.—The term ‘po-
7 litical information’ means information relating to po-
8 litical spending, including any payment consisting of
9 a contribution, expenditure, independent expendi-
10 ture, or disbursement for an electioneering commu-
11 nication that is made by the contractor, any of its
12 partners, officers, directors or employees, or any of
13 its affiliates or subsidiaries to a candidate or on be-
14 half of a candidate for election for Federal office, to
15 a political committee, to a political party, to a third-
16 party entity with the intention or reasonable expect-
17 ation that it would use the payment to make inde-
18 pendent expenditures or electioneering communica-
19 tions, or that is otherwise made with respect to any
20 election for Federal office, party affiliation, and vot-
21 ing history. Each of the terms ‘contribution’, ‘ex-
22 penditure’, ‘independent expenditure’, ‘candidate’,
23 ‘election’, ‘electioneering communication’, and ‘Fed-
24 eral office’ has the meaning given the term in the

1 Federal Campaign Act of 1971 (2 U.S.C. 431 et
2 seq.).”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
4 at the beginning of chapter 47 of title 41, United States
5 Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to
6 section 4711 the following new item:

“4712. Prohibition on Certain Uses of Political Information.”

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