



December 22, 2022

Congresswoman Lauren Boebert  
1609 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Boebert,

This letter includes important information about what is included in H.R. 2617, a 12-bill consolidated appropriations package for Fiscal Year 2023.

Attached to this letter you will find a document that details reasons to oppose H.R. 2617.

Over the past two years, Democrats recklessly spent more than \$3 trillion outside of the normal appropriations process. Instead of addressing true priorities like border security and our nation's military, these "reconciliation" bills significantly increased funding for non-defense programs. H.R. 2617 continues the Democrats' out-of-control spending by giving huge increases to the same programs that already received trillions in additional funding.

House Republicans must stick together and vote "NO" on this appropriations package. This is the best way to demonstrate our unity against the Democrats' irresponsible spending.

Also attached is a list of your individual requests that were included in H.R. 2617. While we strongly oppose the bill, we want you to be aware of the requests you made that are included in the final package.

Please feel free to reach out to my Concierge Member Services staff at (202) 225-3481 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations

## *H.R. 2617, FY23 Omnibus Appropriations*

H.R. 2617 contains all twelve appropriations bills for fiscal year 2023 (FY23), totaling nearly \$1.65 trillion in discretionary spending, a 9% increase from fiscal year 2022 (FY22). This includes a 10% increase for defense (the NDAA-authorized level) and an 8% increase for non-defense (including veterans' health care).

H.R. 2617 also includes \$85.5 billion in emergency supplemental appropriations including funds to address the costs of Russia's war in Ukraine and to respond to natural disasters, as well as for other programs that should have been funded with non-emergency resources. This is on top of the \$87 billion in emergency FY23 funding that Democrats previously passed during this Congress. This bill includes other authorizing provisions that have associated long-term costs. **All told, this bill will cost taxpayers nearly \$2 trillion.**

### Top Line Message

- **Democrats are doubling down on inflation.**
  - Over the past two years, Speaker Pelosi and the Democrats recklessly spent more than \$3 trillion outside of the normal appropriations process, and their out-of-control spending has been a key driver of inflation.
  - In their last few days of power, Democrats are doubling down on their failed strategy – this bill gives huge increases to non-defense programs that already received trillions through “reconciliation” and other bills.
- **H.R. 2617 fails to address our nation's most pressing problems.**
  - Not only will this bill fuel inflation, it fails to address our nation's most pressing problems, such as the crisis at our border and high energy costs.
- **Democrats used this bill to push their environmental and social agenda at the expense of the American people, and they used budgetary gimmicks and tricks to hide it.**

## ***H.R. 2617, FY23 Omnibus Appropriations (Cont.)***

### **Excessive Spending**

#### **Non-Defense Spending**

- Increases funding for non-defense programs by 8%. These programs received trillions outside of the appropriations process over the last two years. Increases in this bill include:
  - 8% for Transportation and Housing and Urban Development programs.
    - \$800 million for the National Infrastructure Investments (BUILD/RAISE) on top of \$1.5 billion in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).
  - 8% for Financial Services and General Government programs, including:
    - \$12.3 billion for the IRS on top of nearly \$80 billion in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA);
    - 19.5% for White House offices;
    - 9% for General Services Administration;
    - 13% for Office of Personnel Management; and
    - 40% for Election Assistance Commission operations.
  - 6% for Labor, Health & Human Services, and Education programs, which just received an additional \$310 billion outside of the appropriations process.
  - 2% for Interior and Environment programs, which received over \$48 billion in IRA and over \$89 billion in IIJA.
    - 6% for EPA, which received over \$40 billion in IRA and over \$60 billion in IIJA.
    - 125% increase in loan authority for the Presidio Trust, a local priority for Speaker Pelosi, even after it received \$70 million in loan authority since FY20.

**The bill also hides the extent of funding increases by designating additional amounts as an “emergency” that could have been funded within the regular bills.** Examples include:

- \$3.6 billion for HUD rental assistance.
- \$2.5 billion for the low-income home energy assistance program.
- \$2.4 billion for refugee and migrant programs primarily used to bail out the administration’s out of control border and immigration policy.
- \$1.6 billion for wildfire fire prevention and suppression activities without comprehensive forest management reforms to prevent future catastrophic fires.
- \$499 million for NOAA, including new hurricane hunter aircraft (\$328 million).
- \$350 million for Corps of Engineers projects that are unrelated to recent disasters.
- \$300 million for ongoing nuclear energy research and development activities.

## ***H.R. 2617, FY23 Omnibus Appropriations (Cont.)***

### **Controversial Policies and Funding Proposals**

#### **Biden's Border Bailout**

- Bails out the administration for its policy-driven crisis at the border. Instead of addressing the root cause of the crisis, Democrats include hundreds of millions of dollars to “manage” Biden’s Border Crisis yet reduce funding to actually secure the border. Examples include:
  - \$1.6 billion more for unaccompanied children, which only encourages parents to use traffickers and smugglers to send children on the dangerous journey to cross the border.
  - \$800 million for shelter services for migrants and non-governmental organizations that facilitate illegal immigration.
  - A reduced number of ICE detention beds.
  - Only 300 additional Border Patrol Agents when border encounters are at an all-time high.
  - An additional \$100 million for immigration courts, which fail to keep pace with the influx of migrants, no matter how much Congress appropriates.
  - \$133 million for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) refugee processing, which was historically paid for by applicant fees but is now shifted to taxpayers.

#### **Biden's Energy Crisis and The Democrats' Green New Deal**

- Fails to promote American energy production by taking over \$2 billion that is supposed to refill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve with crude oil and giving it to unrelated Democrat priorities.
- Doubles down on efforts to fund Democrats' Green New Deal by:
  - Funding misguided requests to use Department of Defense dollars to address the Biden Administration's partisan climate change agenda;
  - Significantly increasing renewable energy and energy efficiency programs; and
  - Underfunding the needs related to domestic energy production.

#### **National Security**

- Allows U.S. tax dollars to fund the United Nations' deeply controversial Commission of Inquiry against Israel.
- Allows U.S. cooperation with the International Criminal Court.
- Underfunds Foreign Military Financing requested for Taiwan's security, despite continued threats from the Communist Chinese Party.

## ***H.R. 2617, FY23 Omnibus Appropriations (Cont.)***

### **Misplaced Priorities and Opportunities for Waste, Fraud, and Abuse**

- Includes a \$25 million increase for the National Labor Relations Board, which favors labor unions over businesses.
- Encourages greater regulations and government overreach by providing a:
  - 13% increase for Treasury Department offices;
  - 10% increase for the Consumer Product Safety Commission;
  - 14% increase for the Federal Trade Commission; and
  - 8% increase for the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- Funds a massive increase in Transportation Security Officer pay, costing hundreds of millions this year and billions in future years.
- Provides the largest funding level in history for SNAP because prices have risen so high under this administration.
- Provides \$1 billion to improve the resilience of the Puerto Rico electric grid even though several billion dollars previously appropriated for this purpose have not been used by Puerto Rico.
- Includes a 30% increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant program.
- Includes an additional \$15 billion in new loan authority for the Department of Energy's Title 17 loan guarantee program without any new protections – this is the same program that funded the Obama Administration's Solyndra Scandal.

**Congresswoman Lauren Boebert (CO-03)**

**Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies**

1. No less than \$1.34 billion for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle, \$799.15 million for Exploration Ground Systems, and \$2.6 billion for the Space Launch System (SLS), including \$600 million for the Exploration Upper Stage (EUS).

**Defense**

1. Language included as Section 8099 regarding prohibition of funding for certain uses of government travel charge cards.
2. 80 F-35 aircraft, including 16 short take-off and vertical landing variants for the Marine Corps, 20 carrier variants for the Navy and Marine Corps, and 44 conventional variants for the Air Force.
3. Includes \$173 million for the Arrow System Improvement Program and \$127 million for the Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense program.
4. Funds Iron Dome at the Defense budget request level of \$80 million.
5. Funds Arrow 3 Upper Tier Systems at the Defense budget request level of \$80 million.
6. Funds Short Range Ballistic Missile Defense at the Defense budget request level of \$40 million.

**Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies**

1. Budget request for specific Bureau of Reclamation projects plus additional funding for water conservation and delivery projects (\$229.26 million) and rural water projects (\$50 million).
2. \$7.66 million for Bureau of Reclamation Upper Colorado and San Juan Rivers Endangered Fish Recovery Implementation Programs.

**Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies**

1. Report language directing the U.S. Forest Service to consult with the Department of the Interior and other relevant federal agencies to consider the feasibility of establishing a pilot program to combat salt cedar and Russian olive trees in the West.

2. Bill language prohibiting an Endangered Species Act Listing of greater sage-grouse.
3. \$10 million in Bureau of Indian Affairs for the Indian Irrigation Fund.
4. \$50 million for the U.S. Forest Service for Forest Health Management with strong encouragement for the Service to address high priority invasive species, including bark beetle infestations.
5. \$1 million in Fish and Wildlife Service for the Wolf-Livestock Loss Demonstration Program.
6. Full funding, estimated at \$515 million, for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program for fiscal year 2023.

#### **Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies**

1. \$352 million for Rural Health in the Department of Health and Human Services.
2. \$1.85 billion for Community Health Centers in the Department of Health and Human Services.
3. \$440 million for Charter Schools grants in the Department of Education.
4. Hyde and Weldon amendments included in the bill-wide general provisions.

#### **State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs**

1. Report language included regarding the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel.

#### **Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies**

1. \$28.44 billion for the Department of Transportation National Highway Performance Program, funded through the Highway Trust Fund.
2. Bill language exempts livestock haulers from Department of Transportation electronic logging device requirements.