



Legislative Bulletin.....June 9, 2014

Contents:
Amendments to H.R. 4745 - Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (Latham, R-IA) – Part I

Further Updates on amendments will be sent as they become available.

Amendments to H.R. 4745 - Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 (Latham, R-IA) – Part I

The Committee Report can be found [here](#), and the text of the legislation can be found [here](#).

Amendments with Requested Votes:

1. **Broun (R-GA)**: Reduces Amtrak Operating Grants by \$34 million (a ten percent reduction). The underlying bill provides Amtrak with \$340 million for operating grants and \$850 million for capital grants and debt service. Amtrak is supposed to be self-sufficient, but is projected to run an operating loss of \$333 million in FY15, requiring another infusion of funds from the taxpayers. The rail service managed to lose \$388 million on its food and beverage service from FY10-FY14.

The House Republican Budget recommended eliminating Amtrak operating subsidies. The RSC Budget proposed eliminating these subsidies for Amtrak, stating “Amtrak has no incentive to improve its performance if it knows that it will be able to count on the taxpayers for a bailout each year.” Several conservative groups have supported ending subsidies for Amtrak, including [Americans for Prosperity](#), [Americans for Tax Reform](#), [Cato](#), [Citizens Against Government Waste](#), [FreedomWorks](#), [Heritage Action](#), and [National Taxpayers Union](#).

2. **Poe (R-TX)**: Strikes Sec. 165 of the bill that prohibits federal funding for a proposed rail project on two streets in Houston. The [author of this section](#) of the underlying bill, who represents the streets where this project would be constructed, argues that this project is unaffordable. Rep. Poe argues that the language in the underlying bill undermines local control of transportation projects. Heritage Action opposes this amendment.

3. **Chabot (R-OH)**: Reduces Public Housing programs by a total of \$2.9 billion. Of this, Tenant Based Rental Assistance (Section 8 Program) is reduced by about \$1.936 billion and Project Based Rental Assistance is reduced by about \$975 million.

In the underlying bill, Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, commonly known as the Section 8 Program, is appropriated \$19.356 billion, a level that is \$688 million below the President's budget request, \$179 million above the FY14 enacted level, and \$746 million above the level proposed by the House Appropriations Committee for FY14. The Section 8 program has not been authorized since 1994. In the underlying bill, Project Based Rental Assistance is appropriated \$9.746 billion, a level that is equal to the President's budget request, \$171 million below the FY14 enacted level, and \$695 million above the level proposed by the House Appropriations Committee for FY14.

RSC Staff Contact: Matt Dickerson, matthew.dickerson@mail.house.gov, 6-9718

NOTE: *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*