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Possible Amendments to H.R. 5522, the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2007

Part 1

The following contains information on the 12 amendments that have been pre-printed in the *Congressional Record* and other amendments not pre-printed that may also be offered.

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Amendments Pre-Printed in the *Congressional Record*

9. Musgrave (R-CO). Prohibits funds from being used to provide assistance to any country identified by the Agriculture Department as a country that prohibits the importation of U.S. beef from animals less than 30 months of age. The amendment sponsor's office notes that this amendment is aimed primarily at the beef importation restrictions of Japan, China, and South Korea, which have reportedly resulted in billions of dollars in lost business for the United States—and Colorado specifically. *This amendment, because it is subject to a point of order, will likely be offered, discussed, and withdrawn.*

10. Poe (R-TX). Makes a $597 million across-the-board reduction in the bill's appropriations (which amounts to a 2.8% reduction). The amendment sponsor notes that such reduction would bring the bill down to last year's funding levels. The amendment sponsor writes, "With a national debt of $8.4 trillion, drastically rising entitlement spending, and the enormous costs associated with recovery from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, Congress must take proactive measures to offset growing expenditures. We cannot continue to ask the taxpayers to shoulder these burdens without making an honest effort to reduce spending in other areas."

11. Poe (R-TX). Prohibits funds from being used to provide assistance to any country the government of which does not accept the transfer from the United States of citizens or nationals of such country who have been issued a final removal order by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The amendment sponsor's office quoted an April 2006 Homeland Security Inspector General report that said, "Immigration and

Customs Enforcement's Detention and Removal Office's inability to remove illegal aliens with final orders of removal is impacted in part by the practice of some countries to block or inhibit the repatriation of its citizens. This has created an unofficial 'mini-amnesty' program for criminal and other high-risk aliens."

12. Terry (R-NE). Prohibits funds from being used in contravention of current law regarding trafficking in counterfeit goods or services, specifically this provision:

> Whoever intentionally traffics or attempts to traffic in goods or services and knowingly uses a counterfeit mark on or in connection with such goods or services shall, if an individual, be fined not more than $2,000,000 or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both, and, if a person other than an individual, be fined not more than $5,000,000. In the case of an offense by a person under this section that occurs after that person is convicted of another offense under this section, the person convicted, if an individual, shall be fined not more than $5,000,000 or imprisoned not more than 20 years, or both, and if other than an individual, shall be fined not more than $15,000,000. (18 U.S.C. 2320(a))

According to the amendment sponsor, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has been providing U.S. tax dollars (through contractors or other entities) that are not the legal holder of the trademark or service mark of the Gallup polling organization. USAID, through these contractors, has then been importing this counterfeit material back into the United States, in violation of the law cited above.

Amendments Not Pre-Printed in the Congressional Record

***Obey (D-WI)*/ Hyde (R-IL)/ *Lantos (D-CA)*.** Reduces funds for the *economic* support of Egypt by $100 million (from $455 million to $355 million), increases funds for disaster assistance by $50 million (from $348.8 million to $398.8 million), and increases funds for the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative by $50 million (from $2.77 billion to $2.82 billion). The amendment sponsors say they intend the disaster assistance increase to be for refugees in Darfur, Sudan.

The amendment sponsors note that, "Over the past year, the Government of Egypt has taken significant steps to curtail human rights, block democratic reforms and stifle free speech." Specifically, the amendment sponsors cite examples from last year of Egyptian Government "fraud, vote suppression and intimidation," and the arresting of candidates during last year's elections; "crackdowns on democracy groups;" disciplining of judges who protested the election; "brutality" against and "torture" of pro-democracy activists; and harassment of the Egyptian and foreign press.

Last year, an amendment by Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA) to reduce funding for *military* aid to Egypt by $750 million and to transfer the $750 million to accounts for child survival and health programs under USAID failed 87-326: http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2005/roll326.xml.

***Weiner (D-NY)*/ Burton (R-IN).** Prohibits funds from being obligated or expended to finance any assistance to Saudi Arabia. The amendment sponsors write that, "the Saudis have not been a true ally in the war on terror. They have stymied our terror investigations, provided financial support to terrorists, and bankrolled fanatical Wahhabism."

Last year, this amendment passed 293-132: http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2005/roll331.xml.

Sanders (I-VT)/ Hinchey (D-NY). Prohibits funds from being used by the Export-Import Bank of the United States to approve an application for a long-term loan or loan guarantee with respect to an oil and gas field development project. The amendment sponsors write, "Oil companies like Exxon-Mobil are making the largest profits in the history of the world at the same time that American consumers are paying $3 or more for a gallon of gas. These companies do not need or deserve corporate welfare from the Export-Import Bank to develop oil and gas fields overseas. But, that is exactly what is happening today."