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Obama breaks three promises with signing of Omnibus spending bill

WASHINGTON, D.C.— President Barack Obama today signed HR 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, a \$410 billion piece of legislation containing over 9,000 earmarks. By signing the bill, Obama breaks at least three of his most important campaign promises:

- 1) **Transparency** -- Obama promised to post passed legislation online for five full days before signing it. Obama signed the Omnibus spending bill less than a day after he received it from Congress.

“When there is a bill that ends up on my desk as President, you, the American voter, will have five days to look online and find out what it is before I sign it.”

(June 22, 2007. Manchester, New Hampshire. Video clip at 20m 10s: <http://tinyurl.com/dl2wog>)

- 2) **Overall spending** – Obama promised to enact net spending cuts as President. The Omnibus bill is more than 8 percent higher than 2008 spending levels.

“So we’re going to have to make some investments but we’ve also got to make spending cuts, and what I’ve proposed -- you’ll hear Senator McCain say ‘he’s proposing a whole bunch of new spending’ --but, actually, I’m cutting more than I’m spending. So that it will be a net spending cut.”

(Oct. 7, 2008. Second Presidential Debate - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eM0Eri8VWiw>)

- 3) **Wasteful spending** – Obama promised to “go line by line” to make sure taxpayer money was not wasted. Among the questionable spending in the Omnibus bill is an earmark which sticks taxpayers with a \$200,000 tab for a tattoo removal program in California.

“And, absolutely, we need earmark reform. And when I’m president, I will go line by line to make sure that we are not spending money unwisely.”

(Sept. 26, 2008. First Presidential Debate -- <http://tinyurl.com/ad6966>)

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jkartch@atr.org.

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