Subject: $60 BILLION SANDY BILL LARDED WITH PORK
Posted by CyberkNight on Thu, 17 Jan 2013 14:35:04 GMT
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Efforts to eliminate pork and offset spending from the Hurricane Sandy relief package failed Tuesday night, as President Barack Obama and Democrats declared victory for an aid bill that will total over $60 billion.

Rep. Mick Mulvaney (R-SC) sponsored an amendment that would have administered a 1.63% cut to discretionary programs to fund the $17 billion baseline bill. "The time has come and gone in this nation where we can walk in here one day and spend nine or 17 or 60 billion dollars and not think about who's paying for it," said Rep. Mulvaney.

However, the measure was defeated 162-258. Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) voted against the Mulvaney amendment; Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-VA) and Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) voted for it. Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee Hal Rogers (R-KY) blasted the effort to offset spending, saying it would involve "devastating slash and burn cuts" that would "totally discriminate, cutting the good and the bad."

On top of the $17 billion bill, Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-NJ) offered another amendment that added $33.7 billion to the aid package. That measure passed 228-192, with 20 Republicans from unaffected areas voting for it. As Human Events notes, the Frelinghuysen amendment was loaded with superfluous spending, including "$500 million for weather forecasting and to help create an ocean zoning planthe later one of Obama's pet projects. Also included are $10 million for FBI salaries $2 billion for road construction across the country, as well as funding for the Head Start program, roof repairs at the Smithsonian, and $150 million for fisheries across the country."

The third piece of the relief package involved a $9 billion bill passed earlier this month for the National Flood Insurance Program.

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