



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

GROVER G. NORQUIST

PRESIDENT

Taxpayer Group MAY RATE a VOTE TO STRIKE **Prevailing Wage Provisions of H.R. 720,** **“Water Quality Financing Act of 2007”**

Today, the U.S. House of Representatives will consider H.R. 720, a bill to reauthorize federal-state partnerships on water quality projects. While always a breeding ground for pork-barrel earmarks, the Democrat leadership has taken the opportunity to throw yet another life raft to their allies, the dying dinosaurs of Big Labor.

The bill as written would expand so-called “prevailing wage” (actually, the union wage) to any water improvement project covered by the bill. In practice, this would award virtually every contract to union firms, shutting out merit shop contractors and driving up the price tag for taxpayers by billions of dollars.

Just last week, the House Democrat leadership voted to strip workers of their right to a federally-supervised, private ballot election when deciding on union membership. They started off by pricing low-skilled workers out of the job market with an opportunity-killing minimum wage hike. Now, they throw yet another bone to Big Labor—rigging federal projects in their favor, and footing taxpayers with the bill.

An amendment has been made in order by the Rules Committee that would strike this union-rigging language from the bill. All members of the House should support this common-sense, pro-taxpayer amendment.

ATR MAY RATE A VOTE TO STRIKE PREVAILING WAGE PROVISIONS OF HR 720