



# LIBERTY MATTERS ACTION ALERT

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## CARA AMENDMENT COULD BE OFFERED ON SENATE FLOOR

*At this very moment*, the U.S. Senate is debating the Budget resolution. Proponents of CARA (the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, S. 25) are using this opportunity to slip in an amendment which would allow CARA to circumvent the appropriations process and make it easier for the bill to pass the full Senate.

**IF WE KEEP THIS AMENDMENT FROM BEING PASSED, CARA WILL HAVE A MORE DIFFICULT FIGHT AHEAD. OUR CHANCES TO STOP THE BILL WILL BE BETTER THAN EVER BEFORE!**

Debate on the bill is limited to 50 hours leaving little time for amendments. If offered, the amendment would most likely be voted on at the end of the debate (Friday) without discussion. The amendment is expected to be offered by either Tim Johnson (D-SD), Barbara Boxer (D-CA) or Patty Murray (D-WA). It is a move in advance of CARA (H.R. 701 and/or S. 25) to carve out a separate trust fund for land acquisition and remove Congress from the annual appropriations process.

The amendment is considered a procedural move that, if passed, will mean CARA will only need a simple majority of 51 votes. If defeated now, CARA will then be subject to a Point of Order on the floor of the Senate and must have the support of 60 Senators, a much more difficult task to achieve.

The anticipated amendment is the same that was defeated in the Senate Budget Committee last week. It would strike language from the Budget resolution, which mandates that if CARA were to pass Congress and be signed by the president, it would be "funded as discretionary programs." This would mean the bill would have to go through the annual appropriations process, and would not be "off-budget." This language now in the bill was added by Sen. Slade Gorton (R-WA).

**A CALL TO YOUR SENATOR TODAY IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT YOU WILL MAKE IN THIS FIGHT TO STOP CARA. DEMAND THEY VOTE AGAINST ANY EFFORT TO ADD CARA TO THE BUDGET RESOLUTION.**

Capitol Switchboard Toll free No: 1-888-449-3511 (ask for your Senator's office)  
Capitol Switchboard Number: 1-202-224-3121 (ask for your Senator's office)

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### UPDATE IN THE HOUSE:

*Even though House Leadership has not set a date for CARA to come to the House floor, and has indicated the earliest this would happen is in May, there may be a way that Congressman Don Young could file a discharge order and force the bill to the Floor. If this happens, opponents to CARA including the Majority Whip, Congressman Tom Delay, have said they will push for an open rule during floor debate to allow amendments.*