

## **Motion to Recommit H.J.Res. 38**

*March 6, 2009*

**Summary of Motion:** The motion would recommit H.J.Res. 38 back to the House Appropriations Committee with instructions that the committee report the bill back to the House floor forthwith (i.e. instantaneously) with an amendment that would extend the CR (with some anomalies) through the end of FY 2009 (September 30, 2009), as opposed to the extension to March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009 in the underlying bill.

**Process:** This MTR moves to recommit the bill (with instructions) “forthwith.” If passed, the forthwith directive would technically send the bill back to committee along with the MTR instructions, requiring the committee to immediately return the bill to the House along with the amendment. In effect, the chairman of the committee would take the floor and immediately report the bill back to the House with the amendment instructions in the MTR. The House would then vote on the amendment (in essence, a second vote on the MTR with instructions). If this passes, a vote on final passage – with the amendment included – would be before the House.

**NOTE:** The House Democrat Rules package for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress (H.Res 5) denied the minority the right to offer MTRs “promptly.” If passed, the promptly directive would actually send the bill back to committee along with the MTR instructions. It would NOT instantaneously amend the bill, as would a “forthwith” directive, **nor would this motion kill the bill** (as the majority has falsely asserted). In this instance, the committee would not *required* to act upon the bill. However, the committee could convene a special meeting to consider the bill and potentially send it back to the House, but the Rules Committee would have to meet and report another rule for consideration of the bill. All of this could happen on the very same legislative day, if so desired.

The “promptly” motion would allow for more thoughtful consideration of minority amendments, but the Democrats have decided they do not want such consideration.

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