



Obama v. Obama on Infrastructure Stimulus

This week the Senate is debating yet another Reid-Obama stimulus [bill](#) that is paid for by raising taxes on job creators. Unfortunately for the states and cities that have a backlog of highway projects, the funding in this bill is more than cancelled out by President Obama's overreaching bureaucracies that will drive up the costs of transportation projects across the country. Senator Hatch has offered an alternative [bill](#) that will reform job-destroying regulations and invest in critical infrastructure without raising taxes on small businesses.

EPA's Coal Ash Regulations Will Increase the Cost of Transportation Projects by \$104.6 billion

- The Obama EPA is considering [recategorizing](#) coal ash as a hazardous substance. This would greatly increase the cost of disposing of coal ash and could eliminate it as an ingredient in common goods such as cement, drywall, kitchen counters, and even bowling balls. A recent [study](#) shows that this EPA regulation will cost up to 316,000 jobs.
- According to the [American Road and Transportation Builders Association](#), the cost of transportation projects will increase by **\$104.6 billion** over the next 20 years if coal ash is recategorized and no longer available as a building material for roads, runways, and bridges.
- The House passed a bipartisan [bill](#) to stop the reclassification of coal ash as a hazardous substance and establish a state-based regulatory structure instead. Similar bipartisan [legislation](#) has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Hoeven.

EPA's Cement MACT Rule Will Increase the Cost of Transportation Projects by \$2 billion per year

- In September 2010, the EPA finalized new maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards for cement kilns. These stringent new [regulations](#) likely will force more than 15 percent of the nation's cement plants to close, costing **15,000 jobs and \$27 billion** in lost GDP. They will also increase cement imports from countries like [China](#) with less stringent environmental regulations.
- Additionally, the cement MACT rule will drive up the price of cement, which is a key component of transportation projects. The [Portland Cement Association](#) projects that states and cities will have to pay up to **\$2 billion** more per year for transportation projects on account of this rule.
- The House passed a bipartisan [bill](#) to delay and rewrite the cement MACT rules. Similar bipartisan [legislation](#) has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Barrasso.

As President Obama continues to push for additional stimulus spending, his own EPA is driving up the costs of infrastructure maintenance and new projects across the country. This additional bureaucracy will destroy jobs and increase the cost of infrastructure investment for years to come.