

Area Votes in Congress (The Philadelphia Inquirer)

THOMAS VOTING REPORTS

WASHINGTON - Here is how Philadelphia-area members of Congress were recorded on major roll-call votes last week:

> House

> "Use it or lose it." Voting 244-173, the House failed to reach a two-thirds majority needed to pass a bill (HR 6515) giving oil companies a "use it or lose it" mandate to either drill on federal land they have leased or give up the right to do so. The bill was directed at dormant leases covering 68 million acres, including 33 million offshore acres. The bill also required expanded drilling in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and called upon President Bush to gradually put on the market 10 percent of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve's 700 million barrels.

> A yes vote was to pass the bill.

> Voting yes: Robert A. Brady (D., Pa.), Michael N. Castle (R., Del.), Charles W. Dent (R., Pa.), Chaka Fattah (D., Pa.), Jim Gerlach (R., Pa.), Tim Holden (D., Pa.), Frank A. LoBiondo (R., N.J.), Patrick Murphy (D., Pa.), Allyson Y. Schwartz (D., Pa.), Joe Sestak (D., Pa.), and Christopher H. Smith (R., N.J.).

> Voting no: Joseph R. Pitts (R., Pa.) and H. James Saxton (R., N.J.).

> Not voting: Robert E. Andrews (D., N.J.)

> Intelligence budget, energy. Voting 200-225, the House refused to send the 2009 intelligence budget (HR 5959) back to committee, where it would be changed to require a National Intelligence Estimate of the impact of global energy conditions on U.S. security. The budget for the 16 U.S. intelligence agencies was then passed on a non-record vote. The classified sum is unofficially reported at \$50 billion or higher.

> A yes vote backed the GOP motion.

> Voting yes: Castle, Dent, Gerlach, LoBiondo, Pitts, Saxton and Smith.

> Voting no: Andrews, Brady, Fattah, Holden, Murphy, Schwartz and Sestak.

> Bush Medicare veto. Voting 383-41, the House overrode President Bush's veto of a bill (HR 6331) that would cancel the administration's 10.6 percent cut in Medicare payments to doctors. The bill's projected cost of \$19.8 billion over six years would be offset mainly by cuts in the privately run, federally subsidized Medicare Advantage program.

> A yes vote was to override the veto.

> Voting yes: Andrews, Brady, Castle, Dent, Fattah, Gerlach, Holden, LoBiondo, Murphy, Pitts, Saxton, Schwartz, Sestak and Smith.

> Senate

> Bush Medicare veto. Voting 70-26, the Senate joined the House (above) in overriding President Bush's veto of a bill (HR 6331) to continue Medicare reimbursement rates to doctors at their current level this year and raise them by 1.1 percent in January. The bill then became law.

> A yes vote was to enact the bill.

> Voting yes: Joseph R. Biden Jr. (D., Del.), Thomas Carper (D., Del.), Bob Casey Jr. (D., Pa.), Frank Lautenberg (D., N.J.), Robert Menendez (D., N.J.), and Arlen Specter (R., Pa.).

> Global aids funds. Voting 80-16, the Senate passed a bill (HR 5501) authorizing \$50 billion over five years for U.S. support of global programs to combat HIV

AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, mainly in sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean.

> A yes vote was to pass the bill.

> Voting yes: Biden, Carper, Casey, Lautenberg, Menendez and Specter.

> This week. The House will take up bills on the U.S. housing crisis and highway and bridge inspections, while the Senate will debate the 2009 intelligence budget and a bill to better regulate energy-futures speculation.