# 1NC

## 1NC Immigration

Will pass

**Aristimuno 1/23/14** [Janurary 23, 2014, Jose Aristimuno is the founder of Latino Giant, a digital platform focused on empowering U.S. Latinos to reach their greatest potential, “In 2014, Immigration Reform Must Be A Priority”, http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/opinion/2014/01/23/in-2014-immigration-reform-must-be-priority/]

For the past year, people from across the country have come to see firsthand

AND

of principles that the leadership hopes to see on a potential immigration bill.

Plan specifically derails immigration reform - Economic engagement initiatives PERCEIVED as deprioritizing necessary focus on security issues and drug war while kowtowing to Mexico – perception is key and hardliner target spin control to play on fence sitters largest fears

Shear, 13

(Michael, NYT White house correspondent, 5/5, <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/05/05/world/americas/in-latin-america-us-shifts-focus-from-drug-war-to-economy.html?pagewanted=all>)

Last week, Mr. Obama returned to capitals in Latin America with a vastly

AND

in a news conference with Laura Chinchilla, the president of Costa Rica.

PC key

Orlando Sentinel 11-1 [11/1/13, It’s a newspaper that follows Congress, “What we think: It'll take both parties to clear immigration logjam”, http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2013-11-01/news/os-ed-immigration-reform-congress-20131031\_1\_immigration-reform-comprehensive-reform-house-republicans]

For those who thought the end of the government shutdown would provide a break from

AND

earn citizenship. House Democratic leaders will have to underscore the president's message.

Visas are key to cybersecurity preparedness

McLarty 9 (Thomas F. III, President – McLarty Associates and Former White House Chief of Staff and Task Force Co-Chair, “U.S. Immigration Policy: Report of a CFR-Sponsored Independent Task Force”, 7-8, http://www.cfr.org/ publication/19759/us\_immigration\_policy.html)

We have seen, when you look at the table of the top 20 firms

AND

going to strengthen, I think, our system, our security needs.

Cyber-vulnerability causes great power nuclear war

Fritz 9 Researcher for International Commission on Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament [Jason, researcher for International Commission on Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament, former Army officer and consultant, and has a master of international relations at Bond University, “Hacking Nuclear Command and Control,” July, <http://www.icnnd.org/latest/research/Jason_Fritz_Hacking_NC2.pdf>]

This paper will analyse the threat of cyber terrorism in regard to nuclear weapons.

AND

its own, without the need for compromising command and control centres directly.

## 1NC T QPQ

Interpretation – economic engagement must be conditional

Shinn 96 [James Shinn, C.V. Starr Senior Fellow for Asia at the CFR in New York City and director of the council’s multi-year Asia Project, worked on economic affairs in the East Asia Bureau of the US Dept of State, “Weaving the Net: Conditional Engagement with China,” pp. 9 and 11, google books]

In sum, conditional engagement consists of a set of objectives, a strategy for attaining those objectives, and tactics (specific policies) for implementing that strategy.

The objectives of conditional engagement are the ten principles, which were selected to preserve American vital interests in Asia while accommodating China’s emergence as a major power.

The overall strategy of conditional engagement follows two parallel lines: economic engagement, to

AND

105, no. 3 (1990), pp. 383-88).

Violation – the aff is a unilateral giving – not a quid pro quo offer

Vote negative – quid pro quo gives competition for conditions cp and say no arguments. Key to fight back against aff bias

## 1NC Race K

Economic engagement toward Latin America is based off of white supremacist norms

THORBURN representative of the WORKERS PARTY, USA 2k4

Michael-; “US Imperialism, Hands Off Latin America;” a Chicago-area meeting organized by the Peace Agenda Forum on October 21, 2004; published online-November 9; <http://www.anti-imperialist.org/Hands-Off-Latin-America_11-9-04.htm>

Economic Basis

Of course, behind all this military intervention are the economic interests of the U

AND

and imperialism - against the Republicans and Democrats. (to be continued).

The affirmative rhetorical silence on whiteness is an active stance that allows white privilege to thrive by masking its existence and treating is as an assumed norm.

DR. CRENSHAW Prof of Speech Comm @ Univ. Ala. 1997

Carrie-PhD. USC; former director of debate @ Univ. of Ala.; WESTERN JOURNAL OF COMMUNICATION

This analysis of Helms’ opening argument illustrates how the ideology of white privilege operates through

AND

of whiteness like Helms’ protect material white privilege because they mask its existence.

Racism must be rejected in EVERY INSTANCE without surcease. It justifies atrocities, creates another and is truly the CAPITAL SIN.

MEMMI Professor Emeritus of Sociology @ Unv. Of Paris 2000, Albert-; RACISM, translated by Steve Martinot, pp.163-165

The struggle against racism will be long, difficult, without intermission, without remission

AND

. True, it is a wager, but the stakes are irresistible.

Voting negative has revolutionary potential

Wilderson, ’10 [2010, Frank B. Wilderson is an Associate Professor of African-American Studies at UC Irvine and has a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, “Red, White & Black: Cinema and the Structure of U.S. Antagonisms,”]

STRANGE AS it might seem, this book project began in South Africa. During

AND

, Andile Mngxitama, Prishani Naidoo, John Shai, and S'bu Zulu.

## 1NC Commission CP

The United States federal government should establish a presidential Cut-to-Invest Commission. The Cut-To-Invest Commission should recommend infrastructure assistance to Mexico as part of its first proposal. The Executive Branch of the United States federal government should provide the commission with all necessary resources to promote its recommendations.

The CP solves—it establishes a commission that proposes funding towards infrastructure as part of a single package with matching budgetary cuts and reforms—that ensures sustainable investment in the aff while avoiding the backlash to the plan

Weinstein, ’12 [November 2012, Paul Weinstein, is director of the Graduate Program in Public Management at Johns Hopkins University and worked for eight years in the Clinton White House, first as Special Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff of the Domestic Policy Council, and later as Senior Adviser for Policy Planning to Vice President Al Gore, “Establish a ‘Cut-to-Invest Commission’ to Reduce Low-Priority Spending, Consolidate Duplicative Programs, and Increase High Priority Investments”, http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/research/files/papers/2012/11/13%20federalism/13%20investments%20spending]

Given the need for more investment, Congress and the president should establish a Cut

AND

through the sunset commission process, the state received $27 in return.

## 1NC Grid Collapse

**No impact to shocks—market adaptation**

Gholz and Press ’10 [August 27th, 2010, Eugene, Associate professor Public Affairs at the University of Texas Austin and Daryl Associate professor government Dartmouth, “Protecting “The Prize”: Oil and the U.S. National Interest,” Security Studies, 19:453–485 vol 3]

Each day, twenty-four million barrels of crude are pumped from the Persian

AND

But the net result of the adaptations softens the disruptions’ effects on consumers.

Blackouts happen monthly – Proves their impact is empirically denied.

Apt and Lave 8/10/04 - former NASA astronaut, executive director Carnegie Mellon Electricity Industry Center; co-director of the center [Jay Apt and Lester B. Lave, “Blackouts Are Inevitable,” Washington Post, 8/10/04, p. A19, http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A52952-2004Aug9.html]

As we approach the first anniversary of the Blackout of '03, we're reminded of

AND

could get around any protective structures and software to bring down the system.

to be able to accomplish the essential missions of the electricity system despite a blackout -- and to do so at the lowest possible cost.

No impact on the economy.

Thomas 1/18/01 – Associate Director of Advisory Services at NFF, Senior Economic Correspondent for Smartmoney.com [Rebecca, “An Energy Crisis—but Not an Economic One,” Smart Money, 1/18/01, http://www.smartmoney.com/theeconomy/index.cfm?story=200101181]

Wall Street also downplayed the potential nationwide impact of California-specific electricity disruptions,

AND

utilities is small relative to their overall capital base, Lehman economists say.

## 1NC Clean Tech

No Africa escalation

Adusei, energy expert – Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, 1/6/’12

(Lord Aikins, “Global Energy Security and Africa's rising Strategic Importance,” <http://www.modernghana.com/news/370533/1/global-energy-security-and-africas-rising-strategi.html>)

Additionally, the prospect of major inter-state conflict in Africa involving the use

AND

main reasons why Africa's strategic importance is growing among oil and gas importers.

Strong mutual interests and relations prevent escalation in Central Asia.

Richard Weitz 06, senior fellow and associate director of the Center for Future Security Strategies at the Hudson Institute, Summer, 2006 [Washington Quarterly, “Averting a New Great Game in Central Asia”]

Fortunately, the fact that Central Asia does not represent the most important geographic region

AND

overtly competitive policies could undermine these opportunities for cooperation and should be avoided.

China’s leading clean tech development now---it’s zero-sum with U.S. renewable development---key to Chinese growth, CCP stability, Chinese soft power, and warming

McMahon ‘13 [January 27th, 2013, Tamsin is a reporter for the National Post. “How China is going to save the world,” <http://www2.macleans.ca/2013/01/27/business/>]

China’s ongoing struggles with pollution have been a blight on the country’s international reputation.

AND

of them related in some way to environmental protection and renewable energy technology.

China’s economic rise prevents CCP instability and lashout --- decline tubes the global economy, US primacy, and Sino relations

Mead ‘9 [February 4th, 2009, Walter Russell, Henry A. Kissinger Senior Fellow in U.S. Foreign Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations, “Only Makes You Stronger,” The New Republic, <http://www.tnr.com/story_print.html?id=571cbbb9-2887-4d81-8542-92e83915f5f8>]

The greatest danger both to U.S.-China relations and to American power

AND

modernization and change; nobody knows what will happen if the growth stops.

Extinction

Yee and Storey ‘2 [2002, Herbert is a Professor of Politics and IR at Hong Kong Baptist University, and Ian is a Lecturer in Defence Studies @ Deakin University. “The China Threat: Perceptions, Myths and Reality,” p. 5]

The fourth factor contributing to the perception of a China threat is the fear of

AND

disintegrating China would also pose a threat to its neighbours and the world.

## 1NC Mexico

TBA solves economy and relations

Brown and Meacham 6-5

Neil Brown and Carl Meacham, Brown is non-resident fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Meacham is director of the Americas Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, June 6, 2013, “Time for US-Mexico Transboundary Agreement”, <http://thehill.com/opinion/op-ed/303739-time-for-us-mexico-transboundary-agreement>.

The United States-Mexico Transboundary Agreement (TBA) would enable cooperation between our

AND

partners. That is good for Mexico and for the U.S.

Turn – Service Sector

Service economy is increasing now

Rampell 12 [04/11/12, Catherine Rampell, NY Times, “Some Urge U.S. to Focus on Selling Its Skills Overseas,” http://www.nytimes.com/2012/04/11/business/economy/should-us-services-companies-get-breaks-abroad.html?pagewanted=all]

“There is for some reason this manufacturing fetish in America that is not consistent

AND

share of all the American companies that could participate in the global marketplace.

Increase in manufacturing goods switches the direction of the service economy transition

Nova Town Hall 9 [12/29/2012, Nova Town Hall, “Transition to a Service Economy,” http://novatownhall.com/2009/12/29/transition-to-a-service-economy/]

However, we are transitioning away from a manufacturing-based economy to a service-based economy, and that is not so bad a thing. Many years ago, we moved from an agricultural economy to a manufacturing economy. That transition was painful for many, as most transitions are. But in general, it was a good thing.

That solves a laundry list of other industries—turns the advantage

The Economist 11 [2011, The Economist, “Cash machines,” http://www.economist.com/node/18484080?story\_id=18484080]

These broad trends in job growth by sector are quite similar in other rich countries

AND

. America and Britain, for instance, typically run surpluses in services.

Turns the entire advantage—service industry is a pre-requisite to manufacturing strength

Fitzsimmons 8 [2008, James Fitzsimmons is a Professor of Business @ UT Austin, “Service Management: Operations, Strategy, and Information Technology, 6/e,” Ch 1]

Increasingly, the profitability of manufacturers depends on exploiting value-added services. For

AND

. Services are the crucial force for today’s change toward a global economy.

No impact to the collapse of Manufacturing

Mead 12 [Walter Russel Mead, PhD, Professor of Foreign Affairs and Humanities at Bard College Walter Russel, “Manufacturing Fallacy Debunked,”]

The fetishization of manufacturing is a persistent delusion in modern American politics. The media

AND

; the same will happen as the Manufacturing Age sinks into the past.

**U.S. manufacturing is resurgent---slew of factors make it sustainable and immune to a double-dip**

**PWC ‘12** [September 21st, 2012, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, “A Homecoming For U.S. Manufacturing?” <http://www.manufacturing.net/articles/2012/09/a-homecoming-for-us-manufacturing?et_cid=2861124&et_rid=279915960&linkid=http%3a%2f%2fwww.manufacturing.net%2farticles%2f2012%2f09%2fa-homecoming-for-us-manufacturing>]

NEW YORK― Consensus views on a U.S. manufacturing resurgence have largely

AND

attractive exporter and the relative attractiveness of the U.S. markets.”

Deterrence Fails

Smith ‘3 [2003, Derek Smith is a professor of IR at Oxford. “Deterrence and Counterproliferation in an Age of Weapons of Mass Destruction,” Destruction' Security Studies,12:4,152 — 197]

One major flaw of deterrence theory is that it posits a rational actor and then

AND

we would be remiss to assume that they will never do so again.

Russia would never go to war against the U.S. – Russians won’t risk it.

Aron 07, Resident scholar and the director of Russian Studies at AEI, 6/29 (Leon, The United States and Russia, [http://aei.org/publications/pubID.24606,filter.all/pub\_detail.asp](http://aei.org/publications/pubID.24606%2Cfilter.all/pub_detail.asp))

Yet the probability of a frontal confrontation and a new Cold War remains very remote

AND

of what the U.S. spent ($522 billion).[18]

No chance of terror attack---too tough to execute

John Mueller and Mark G. Stewart 12, Senior Research Scientist at the Mershon Center for International Security Studies and Adjunct Professor in the Department of Political Science, both at Ohio State University, and Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute AND Australian Research Council Professorial Fellow and Professor and Director at the Centre for Infrastructure Performance and Reliability at the University of Newcastle, "The Terrorism Delusion," Summer, International Security, Vol. 37, No. 1, politicalscience.osu.edu/faculty/jmueller//absisfin.pdf

In 2009, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

AND

took a tram going the wrong way and dynamited a mosque instead.15

Drug cartels key to the Mexican economy

Lange, 10 – Washington Correspondent for Reuters, citing US officials in Mexico; additional reporting by Lizbeth Diaz in Tijuana (Jason, “From spas to banks, Mexico economy rides on drugs,” Reuters, 22 January 2010, http://www.reuters.com/article/2010/01/22/us-drugs-mexico-economy-idUSTRE60L0X120100122)//BI

Mexican cartels, which control most of the cocaine and methamphetamine smuggled into the United

AND

through 2008, with gangs now involved in most sectors of the economy.

# CP

## 2NC AT Perm do CP

Congress can reject the CP – proves its competitive and that aff ground exists

Alarkon ‘10

Walter Alarkon, The Hill, 3/1/2010. “Senior Democrats follow Pelosi’s lead by warming up to Obama debt commission,” http://thehill.com/homenews/house/84125-senior-democrats-follow-pelosis-lead-in-warming-to-debt-commission

Top Democrats stress Congress has the power to reject any commission proposal. "All they can do is make recommendations," said House Rules Committee Chairwoman Louise Slaughter (D-N.Y.). "That certainly doesn't mean it's going to be adopted."

Permutation severs – the counterplan has the commission recommend the plan – it doesn’t require implementation, making it distinct from the plan

Camp ‘10

Rep James Camp R-Mich, 4/28/2010. Fox News, “Why Have the Debt Commission?” http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,591645,00.html

VAN SUSTEREN: Is the plan a recommendation to the president, not binding on

AND

get a vote after the work is done. But there's no guarantee.

Substantially is immediate and certain

Words and Phrases 64 (40W&P 759)

The words" outward, open, actual, visible, substantial, and exclusive

AND

or pertaining to any others; undivided; sole; opposed to inclusive.

Should must be immediately effective – other definitions tear the legal system apart

Summers ‘94

(Justice for the Oklahoma Supreme Court, 11-8-94, Pat Kelsee, Appellee, v. Dollarsaver Food Warehouse of Durant, Appellant, Appeal from the District Court of Bryan County, The Supreme Court of Oklahoma, Case Number 81862, 1994 OK 123, 885 P.2d 1353)

4 The legal question to be resolved by the court is whether the word "

AND

and the same hereby is" - is soon likely to drift into th

e body of principles which govern the facial validity of judgments. This development would

AND

does not consider Manning's impact, if any, on this appeal's dismissibility.

## 2NC AT Perm do Both

Perm will get leaked – triggers the link

Wilson and DiIulio ‘98

James Q. Wilson, professor of political science at UCLA, and John J. DiIulio, professor of political science at Princeton, 1998, American Government: Institutions and Policies, p. 291

American government is the leakiest in the world. The bureaucracy, members of Congress

AND

not against the law for the press to receive and print government secrets.

## 2NC Avoids Politics—Wall

2. Structure—The recommendation is submitted to an up/done vote which means they can either reject the entire package or endorse all of it—makes individual parts of the plan irrelevant

Evans ‘10

Sean Evans, associate professor of political science at Union University, February 2010. The Jackson Sun, “Congress Lacks Political Will,” p. Lexis

The mere fact that Washington debates a debt commission proposal shows a failure of political

AND

a bipartisan vote removes it as a political issue in the general election.

## 2NC AT Certainty Key

The aff isn’t certain—lack of a stable funding source and political pressures

Slone, ’12 [October 25, 2012, Sean Slone, “Future of Transportation Funding Still A Concern”, http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/kc/content/future-transportation-funding-still-concern]

But as many of the provisions of MAP-21 kick in this month,

AND

, according to a new report from the Standard & Poor’s rating service.

The CP solves—i**t creates political pressure over the plan**

Schwinn ‘10

Steven Schwinn, Associate Professor of Law at John Marshall Law School, 2/19/2010. “Obama Establishes Bi-Partisan Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform,” http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/conlaw/2010/02/obama-establishes-bipartisan-commission-on-fiscal-responsibility-and-reform.html

The Commission obviously cannot have authority to bind Congress. Instead, it operates as

AND

won't be politicized, whether it was established by statute or by EO.

## 2NC AT Say No

Commission influence overcomes any say no

The Commission would enjoy the bully pulpit, would keep the issue in the public eye, and would increase pressure for congress to act on the force of the CP

The Columbus Dispatch ‘10

The Columbus Dispatch 1/28/2010. “Short takes,” p. lexis

\* IN A vote on Tuesday, supporters of a congressional debt-reduction commission

AND

the issue in the public eye and increase pressure on Congress to act.

## /2NC AT Theory Whines (1:00)

Commissions are relevant and solve in the context of border infrastructure

Grijalva ’13 [2/6/13, Raul Grijalva is a member of the US House of Representatives for Arizona’s 3rd Congressional District. “H.R. 548: Border Infrastructure and Jobs Act of 2013,” http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr548/text]

To restore growth, spur job creation, build momentum toward economic recovery for border

AND

be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

# Grid Collapse

## 2NC – I/L Defense

Integration makes us more vulnerable – or our line with Canada solves

Alison Terry, 2012, International Affairs Review, Vol. 20, No. 3., "Policy and Practice in North American Energy Security," http://www.iar-gwu.org/sites/default/files/articlepdfs/North%20American%20Energy%20Security.pdf

The expansion of pipelines and transmission networks facilitates energy distribution throughout North America, but

AND

gained by merging their networks with increased risks of physical and virtual attacks.

## 2NC – Blackouts Defense

And they wouldn’t collapse the economy

Thomas 1/18/01 – Associate Director of Advisory Services at NFF, Senior Economic Correspondent for Smartmoney.com [Rebecca, “An Energy Crisis—but Not an Economic One,” Smart Money, 1/18/01, http://www.smartmoney.com/theeconomy/index.cfm?story=200101181]

Wall Street also downplayed the potential nationwide impact of California-specific electricity disruptions,

AND

to utilities is small relative to their overall capital base, Lehman economists say

# China DA

## 2NC – Link Wall

Clean tech cooperation is impossible—China is imposing trade barriers

Behr, ’11 [01/17/11, Peter Behr, “Clean Technology in China -- a Difficult Balance Between Cooperation and Competition”, http://www.nytimes.com/cwire/2011/01/17/17climatewire-clean-technology-in-china-a-difficult-balanc-90254.html?pagewanted=all]

But if access to China is tied to a drain of leading-edge U

AND

the standards or face the legal consequences of noncompliance," the report added.

# Immigration DA

## O/V

Turns Mexico economy and jobs

Woodruff 13

[Judy, News anchor and journalist for NPR, “Obama Talks Trade, Security, and Immigration on Trip to Mexico, Latin America” NPR, 5/2, <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/white_house/jan-june13/mexico_05-02.html>]

President Obama arrived in Mexico City this afternoon to shore up the U.S

AND

Mexico and a stop to the flow of drugs, guns and crime.

High skill key to economy

Klein 13 Ezra is a columnist for The Washington Post. “To Fix the U.S. Economy, Fix Immigration,” 1/29, http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-01-29/to-fix-the-u-s-economy-fix-immigration.html

Washington tends to have a narrow view of what counts as “economic policy.”

AND

influx of foreign-born students is the most obvious solution you’ll find.

## No Cyber War

Cyber-attack is coming ---actors are probing weaknesses

Reed 12 John, Reports on the frontiers of cyber war and the latest in military technology for Killer Apps at Foreign Policy, "U.S. energy companies victims of potentially destructive cyber intrusions", 10/11, killerapps.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/10/11/us\_energy\_companies\_victims\_of\_potentially\_destructive\_cyber\_attacks

Foreign actors are probing the networks of key American companies in an attempt to gain

AND

power plants infected by Stuxnet very far away from Iran," Kaspersky said.

Cyberattacks will destroy the grid---status quo cyber defense fails

RT 13 – RT, January 11th, 2013, "United States ill-prepared for skyrocketing cyberattacks against critical infrastructure " rt.com/usa/cert-dhs-cyber-monitor-814/

Compared to recent years, the cyberassaults waged during 2012 demonstrate an alarming trend.

AND

, that is a cyber-Pearl Harbor, and it is achievable."

You don’t solve no warrant

## Wont pass

Republicans are getting on board

Rubin 1-22 [Jennifer Rubin for the Washington Post, “Positive Signs for Immigration Reform”, http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/right-turn/wp/2014/01/22/positive-signs-for-immigration-reform/]

Plenty of signs suggest immigration reform will move front and center in the next few

AND

is in the details: Does this mean they could eventually get citizenship?)

Staff, Boehner, and states are getting on board

Rubin 1-22 [Jennifer Rubin for the Washington Post, “Positive Signs for Immigration Reform”, http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/right-turn/wp/2014/01/22/positive-signs-for-immigration-reform/]

Another indication of potential success is the staff brought on to try to bridge the

AND

some Republicans cover to say federal action is needed for purposes of uniformity.

## Wont use bully

PC key no matter what

Robichaud et al. 10-25 [10/25/13, A Law firm, “Beyond the poisoned well: immigration reform tactics changing”, http://www.robichaudlaw.com/blog/2013/10/beyond-the-poisoned-well-immigration-reform-tactics-changing.shtml]

President Obama has not given up on enacting comprehensive immigration reform. To be sure

AND

to making such reform one of the top priorities of his second term.

## Mexico Popular

Economic engagement with Mexico is politically divisive

Wilson 13 – Associate at the Mexico Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International. Center for Scholars (Christopher E., January, “A U.S.-Mexico Economic Alliance: Policy Options for a Competitive Region,” http://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/new\_ideas\_us\_mexico\_relations.pdf)

At a time when Mexico is poised to experience robust economic growth, a manufacturing

AND

action to support regional exporters more politically divisive than it ought to be.

Halverstadt 13 — Lisa Halverstadt, reporter at Voice of San Diego (Lisa Halverstadt, Voice of San Diego, 04-25-2013, “Waiting on Congress to Ease Border Waits”, <http://voiceofsandiego.org/2013/04/25/waiting-on-congress-to-ease-border-waits/>, Accessed 08-01-2013 | AK)

Funding to improve the world’s busiest land border crossing made it into President Barack Obama’s budget but that doesn’t mean the project will shorten lines at the San Ysidro port anytime soon.

Some San Diego politicians and business leaders have spent years advocating for the completion of a three-phase project that would boost the crossings’ outdated infrastructure with 38 new inspection booths and realign Interstate 5 to match up with Mexico’s El Chaparral facility, among other fixes.

The latest upgrade would create the new southbound connection to Mexico and add northbound inspection booths.

But no one is certain the $226 million the president included in his budget for the latest phase of the project will make its way to San Ysidro.

The budget proposal must survive both the budget appropriations process and an ever-dysfunctional Congress, which hasn’t approved a formal budget since 2009.

Rep. Susan Davis, part of San Diego’s congressional delegation who has championed the funding, said she doesn’t feel comfortable making promises.

“We know that no matter where we try and push it in the budget we have a lot of people who don’t want to move in the direction of investment that supports the economy right now,” Davis told Voice of San Diego.

Davis and other advocates are cautiously optimistic.

They’re grateful the Obama administration identified the funds but if Congress once again fails to pass a budget, the funding is history.

That’s significant because Congress hasn’t passed a budget since 2009. Instead, it’s relied on continuing resolutions — legislative tools that allow lawmakers to simply extend the previous year’s budget.

Continuing resolutions don’t incorporate construction projects, meaning such a move would keep San Ysidro funding off the nation’s balance sheet for next year.

Funding for improved border infrastructure in Calexico, Calif., fell prey to a continuing resolution in 2011.

The Senate allocated $84.4 million for the area’s west port of entry but Congress never produced a bill.

Last December, the Imperial Valley Press reported that Imperial County is now negotiating with California Power Corp., which may be willing to bankroll the border crossing upgrades. This is the county’s backup plan for the Calexico crossing should federal leaders fail to allocate funds anytime soon.

If there isn’t a continuing resolution, the funds are more likely to survive but there’s still a chance they could be nixed in a bid to lower the nation’s deficit, or in a budget compromise.

That’s why even the San Ysidro project’s strongest advocates aren’t convinced it will get started anytime soon.

“I think being in the president’s budget is a very positive sign but whether it will make it through the budget or not, I don’t know,” said Paul Ganster, director of San Diego State University’s Institute for Regional Studies of the Californias.

Ganster, who has long pushed San Diego leaders to collaborate more with their Baja California counterparts, said the full backing of the region’s full congressional delegation will be key.

City Councilman David Alvarez, whose district includes San Ysidro, agreed.

“If we don’t have our own delegation from our own backyard advocating in support of this, it’s going to be hard to persuade 430 members of Congress to do the same,” Alvarez said.

Republicans won’t budge on climate change legislation – massively unpopular

Goldenberg, ‘12 [Suzanne Goldenberg, US environmental correspondent for The Guardian newspaper, “Climate Change Campaigners Cautioned Over Reaction to Extreme Weather” The Guardian, PD: July 13, 2012 at 5:17 PM EDT, http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/jul/13/climate-change-campaigners-cautioned?newsfeed=true]

The recent freak weather does provide powerful evidence of the dangers of climate change,

AND

of, 'I will show you. I will not budge an inch."

## Wirsch

Hirsch concedes – If a plan is unpopular then it will disrupt the agenda regardless of PC

Michael Hirsh, National Journal, 2/7/13, There’s No Such Thing as Political Capital, www.nationaljournal.com/magazine/there-s-no-such-thing-as-political-capital-20130207

Presidents are limited in what they can do by time and attention span, of

AND

was sucking all the oxygen out of the room, the aides said.

Empirics prove – capital is finite and legislation only decrease it

Eberly ’13 [1/21/13, Todd Eberly is coordinator of Public Policy Studies and assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at St. Mary's College of Maryland. His email is teeberly@smcm.edu. This article is excerpted from his book, co-authored with Steven Schier, "American Government and Popular Discontent: Stability without Success," to published later this year by Routledge Press. “The presidential power trap,” http://articles.baltimoresun.com/2013-01-21/news/bs-ed-political-capital-20130121\_1\_political-system-george-hw-bush-party-support/2]

As Barack Obama prepares to be sworn in for the second time as president of

AND

the current president's mind today as he takes his second oath of office.\