



# Harry's Hold-Up

## *On Issue After Issue, Harry Reid's Senate Is Standing In The Way Of Jobs And Bipartisan Legislation*

**The Wall Street Journal: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid Has "Shut Down The Senate As A Place To Debate And Vote On Policy."** "The U.S. Senate failed to advance another piece of popular bipartisan legislation late Monday, and the reason tells the real story of Washington gridlock in the current Congress. To wit, Harry Reid has essentially shut down the Senate as a place to debate and vote on policy." (Editorial, "Harry Reid's Senate Blockade," [The Wall Street Journal](#), 5/13/14)

- **Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV): "I've Never Been In A Less Productive Time In My Life Than I Am Right Now, In The United States Senate."** "I've never been in a less productive time in my life than I am right now, in the United States Senate," Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.), who has not received roll-call vote on an amendment since June of last year, told Time magazine last week." (Alexander Bolton, "Dems Chafe Under Reid's Rules As Well," [The Hill](#), 6/24/14)

**Reid's Senate Is "On Pace For Their Worst Year In More Than Three Decades" On Bringing Bills To The Floor.** "Through the end of June, just 41 measures have been reported as being out of committees and gone to the Senate floor, which puts senators on pace for their worst year in more than three decades. Total bills considered are also down, as are roll-call votes on amendments." (Stephen Dinan and S.A. Miller, "Harry Reid Lords Over Crippled Congress," [The Washington Times](#), 7/7/14)

### **ON JOBS, REID REFUSES TO MOVE FORWARD ON PRO-GROWTH AND PRO-JOBS LEGISLATION**

**Reid Has Allowed Over 40 Jobs Bills To Sit "Languishing In The Senate."** "Heller is still hopeful, and has said repeatedly in recent weeks that he's sympathetic to the House members' concerns. The chamber has about 40 jobs bills languishing in the Senate and would like to see one or more brought to the floor in exchange for a vote on unemployment insurance." (Sarah Mimms, "Changing Of The Guard In House Does Little For Unemployment Insurance Prospects," [National Journal](#), 6/24/14)

### *Even On Bipartisan Jobs Bills, Reid Says "No"*

**"Even Some Democrats Have Chafed" At Reid's Refusal To Allow Amendments To Bipartisan Bills, Including Ones On Energy Efficiency And Temporary Tax Cuts.** "But even some Democrats have chafed under Reid's refusal to allow votes on GOP-sponsored amendments, which derailed an energy efficiency bill last week and a package of temporary tax cuts this week." (Alexander Bolton, "Has Senate Hit Rock Bottom?" [The Hill](#), 5/16/14)

**In January, Reid Imperiled Two “Major International Trade Deals” That Had Bipartisan Support.**

“Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid broke publicly with the White House Wednesday on trade policy, instantly imperiling two major international trade deals and punching a hole in one piece of the economic agenda the president outlined in his State of the Union address a day earlier.” (William Mauldin and Siobhan Hughes, “Reid Deals Body Blow To Obama On Trade,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 1/29/14)

**ON OBAMACARE, REID IS OBAMA’S TOP ACCOMPLICE**

**After ObamaCare’s Tumultuous Rollout In October 2013, Reid Could Have Fixed The Law.** “In the end, one man will control whether the Senate attempts to fix ObamaCare after its messy debut: Harry Reid. But the Senate majority leader isn’t ready to act just yet. Reid and his leadership team are assessing how Obama’s proposed administrative fix to allow individuals to keep canceled insurance plans for one year plays in GOP-friendly states like Louisiana, Arkansas and North Carolina — where key Democratic incumbents are up for reelection next year, leadership aides said. The hope is that the fix may blunt a recent nose dive in public approval of ObamaCare.” (Burgess Everett, “Harry Reid Between Affordable Care Act And Vulnerable Democrats,” [Politico](#), 11/19/13)

- **But As A “Close Ally” To Obama, Reid Frowned On Crossing “The White House” And Allowing Votes “On Legislative Fixes” To The Law.** “Despite the law’s messy rollout and flagging public support, Reid and Senate Democrats have no immediate plans to cross the White House and vote on legislative fixes. ... But he is also a close ally to President Barack Obama whom the White House is counting on to help contain the damage.” (Burgess Everett, “Harry Reid Between Affordable Care Act And Vulnerable Democrats,” [Politico](#), 11/19/13)

***Once Calling ObamaCare’s Job-Killing Medical Device Tax “Stupid,” Reid Has Blocked Any Attempt In The Senate To Formally Repeal The Tax***

**Reid Once Called ObamaCare’s Medical Device Tax “Stupid.”** REID: “If they want to shut down the government, here’s how much time they have to figure out it: 4 days, 11 hours, 22 minutes, and 15 seconds. No, they can play around all they want. Some of the biggest supporters for doing away with the stupid tax--I’m sorry, I shouldn’t have said that--doing away with that tax have told me they won’t support that on CR.” (Sen. Harry Reid, [Senate Press Briefing](#), 9/27/13)

**In A Nonbinding Budget Vote, 34 Senate Democrats Joined Republicans To Repeal ObamaCare’s Medical Device Tax.** “Thirty-four Senate Democrats joined Republicans on Thursday night in a nonbinding but overwhelming vote to repeal a key tax in President Barack Obama’s health reform law. The Senate voted 79-20 to get rid of the law’s 2.3 percent sales tax on medical device-makers. The amendment to the budget resolution won’t become law because the budget is nonbinding. But it has huge political significance as momentum builds for bipartisan consensus to get rid of another piece of ObamaCare.” (Jennifer Haberkorn, “Democrats Join Push To Dump ObamaCare Tax,” [Politico](#), 3/22/13)

**Despite Bipartisan Support, Reid Has “No Appetite” To Bring A Vote On The Medical Device Tax To The Senate Floor.** “Republicans are eager to attach a repeal of a medical device surtax to the tax cut extension package on the Senate floor, but the chamber’s top Democrat seems to have no appetite for it.” (Niels Lesniewski And Humberto Sanchez, “Medical Device Tax Repeal Vote Sought By GOP,” [Roll Call](#), 5/13/14)

***After Reid Promised That Americans Could Keep Their Health Care Plan, He Refused To Bring A Bipartisan House-Passed Bill To The Senate Floor***

**Reid, In 2009: “[O]ne Of Our Core Principles Is That If You Like The Health Care You Have, You Can Keep It.”** REID: “Unfortunately, much of what we have seen from the other side is simply one radical

distraction after the next. For months, Republicans have perpetuated a pollster- and consultant-created myth that our plan and our goal is to have the government run your health care. It is not. Let me repeat: It is not. In fact, one of our core principles is that if you like the health care you have, you can keep it.” (Sen. Harry Reid, *Congressional Record*, 8/3/09, p.8642)

**In November, “Thirty-Nine Democrats Broke With Their Party Leaders” In The House To Back The “Keep Your Plan Act.”** “Thirty-nine Democrats broke with their party's leaders and backed the bill despite a veto threat by the White House, highlighting the political problem the issue has come for President Obama's party. ... The House approved the ‘Keep Your Health Plan Act’ in a 261-157 vote.” (Pete Kasperowicz, “House Approves ‘Keep Your Plan’ ObamaCare Bill; 39 Dems Defect,” [The Hill's Floor Action Blog](#), 11/15/13)

**Despite The Bipartisan Support For The Bill, Reid Refused To Bring It Up For A Vote.** “But with public anger mounting over President Obama's failed pledge to allow Americans to keep their existing health plans under his signature law, there is a glimmer of hope for Republicans. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has said he won't take up the bill — and the White House has already threatened a veto. But given the deep divisions within Reid's Caucus over the implementation of Obamacare, the Democratic leader could be forced to take up some sort of change to the law.” (John Stanton, “Despite Veto Threat, House Moves ‘Keep Your Plan’ Fix To Obamacare,” [BuzzFeed](#), 11/15/13)

### ***Reid Refuses To Move Ahead With Bipartisan Legislation To Scrap The ObamaCare Employer And Individual Mandates***

**Earlier This Year, 18 Democrats Joined House Republicans To Pass Bipartisan Legislation That Would Eliminate ObamaCare's 30-Hour Workweek Mandate.** “The House voted Thursday to eliminate a piece of ObamaCare that Republicans say is forcing millions of people to accept reduced hours and smaller paychecks. Members passed the Save American Workers Act in a 248-179 vote, after a debate that stretched out over two days. Eighteen Democrats voted with Republicans, a bit more than the seven Democratic co-sponsors of the legislation, H.R. 2575.” (Pete Kasperowicz, “House Rejects O-Care 30-Hour Workweek,” [The Hill's Floor Action](#), 4/3/14)

- **In March, 27 Democrats Voted To Delay ObamaCare's Individual Mandate In The House.** “The House voted Wednesday to delay tax penalties for failing to buy health insurance this year under ObamaCare, a vote that reflects growing Republican frustration with President Obama's selective implementation of the law. Members voted 250-160 in favor of the bill, which attracted the support of 27 Democrats.” (Pete Kasperowicz, “27 Democrats Support House GOP Bill To Delay ObamaCare Penalty,” [The Hill's Floor Action](#), 3/5/14)

**Reid Won't Bring The Two Bills To A Vote, Allowing ObamaCare Fix Bills To “Die On The Legislative Vine.”** “The bill's passage could put pressure on Senate Democrats to take up the measure — several are in tough re-election bids and the mandate is an unpopular facet of Mr. Obama's law — but Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Nevada Democrat, has let other anti-ObamaCare bills die on the legislative vine.” (Tom Howell Jr., “House Votes To Delay ObamaCare Individual Mandate,” [The Washington Times](#), 3/5/14)

## **ON KEYSTONE, REID STANDS WITH HIS BILLIONAIRE BACKERS BUT NOT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE**

### ***Reid Consistently Stands In The Way Of The Keystone Pipeline***

**In May, Reid, With The Support Of Nearly All Senate Democrats, Used A Procedural Maneuver To Block A Vote On Keystone Pipeline.** “Senate Democrats defeated Republican attempts to bring up amendments to an energy efficiency bill on Wednesday. Republicans filed a motion to table Senate

Majority Leader Harry Reid's (D-Nev.) amendments he used to 'fill the tree' but it failed on a 45-52 vote." (Ramsey Cox, "Senate Dems Block GOP Attempt To Amend Energy Bill," [The Hill](#), 5/7/14)

**And In June, Reid Indicated That A Bill On Keystone "Has Little Chance Of Being Brought Up In The Senate This Year."** "But the Senate leader also indicated that the Keystone bill, even if passed by Landrieu with mostly Republican votes in committee, has little chance of being brought up in the Senate this year." (Edward Felker, "Analysis: Landrieu Gets Keystone, But Reid Calls The Shots," [Energy Guardian](#), 6/18/14)

- **Reid "Laughed At The Suggestion That He [Will] Bring The Bill To A Vote."** "Reid on Tuesday laughed at the suggestion that he bring the bill to a vote, and blamed Republicans for failing to take an offer for a standalone Keystone XL vote last month in connection with an energy efficiency bill." (Edward Felker, "Analysis: Landrieu Gets Keystone, But Reid Calls The Shots," [Energy Guardian](#), 6/18/14)

### ***Reid Is Standing In The Way Of Public Support, His Own Members And Thousands Of Jobs***

**Majorities Of Americans, Including Democrats And Independents, Want Keystone Approved.**

"Support for Keystone is highest among Republicans, with 82 percent backing it. But majorities of independents and Democrats also want it approved, at 65 and 51 percent, respectively." (Juliet Eilperin And Scott Clement, "New Post-ABC News Poll: Keystone XL Project Overwhelmingly Favored By Americans," [The Washington Post](#), 3/7/14)

- **The Washington Post Headline: "Support For Keystone XL Pipeline Is Almost Universal."** (Aaron Blake, "Support For Keystone XL Pipeline Is Almost Universal," [The Washington Post](#), 6/26/14)

**Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV): "It's A Shame That An Issue Like #KeystoneXL Pipeline, That Has Such Strong Bipartisan Support, Is Being Delayed Yet Again"** ([Sen. Joe Manchin Twitter Feed](#), 4/18/14)

**According To The State Department, The Keystone Pipeline Would Help Support Thousands Of Jobs.** "Construction spending would support a combined total of approximately 42,100 jobs throughout the United States for the up to 2-year construction period. A job consists of one position that is filled for one year. The term support means jobs ranging from new jobs (i.e., not previously existing) to the continuity of existing jobs in current or new locations. The specific number of jobs at any location would result from the individual decisions of employers across the country affected by the proposed Project based on their labor needs, work backlog, and local hiring conditions." ("Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement For The Keystone XL Project," [United States Department of State](#), 1/14, p.20)

### ***The American People Can Take A Backseat – Reid Is More Interested In Campaign Donations Than Jobs***

**Billionaire Democrat Donor Tom Steyer Has Pledged To Spend \$100 Million To Help Democrats In November And His Top Issue Is Stopping Keystone.** "But there are at least 100 million reasons why the president has held up the decision. Those reasons live in the bank account of hedge fund manager Tom Steyer who has pledged to spend \$100 million helping Democrats avoid disaster in a 2014 midterm election where their Senate majority is in serious jeopardy. Steyer's No. 1 issue? Stopping the Keystone pipeline." (Ben White, "Why Obama's Keystone Opposition Reeks Of Politics," [CNBC](#), 4/21/14)

**Tom Steyer Has Donated \$5 Million To The Reid-Backed Senate Majority PAC.** (CQ Moneyline, Accessed 7/22/14)

- **Steyer's NextGen Climate Action Committee Has Also Contributed \$5 Million To The Reid-Backed Senate Majority PAC.** (CQ Moneyline, Accessed 7/22/14)

### **AND TO TOP IT OFF, REID IS OBAMA'S TOP ALLY IN THE WAR ON COAL**

**In June, Senate Democrats Ducked A Vote On A “War On Coal” Amendment After The Appropriations Committee Did Not Move Forward On A Previously Scheduled Bill.** “The war over the ‘war on coal’ has been postponed after Democrats pushed off a second fiscal 2015 spending bill in the Senate. Late Wednesday, the Appropriations Committee decided not to move forward as scheduled with Thursday’s markup of the bill that funds the Energy Department, as well as water development projects.” (Niels Lesniewski, “Democrats Ducking Vote On ‘War On Coal’ Amendment — For Now,” [Roll Call](#), 6/18/14)

**Reid Was “A Force” Behind The Move To Cancel Consideration Of The Bill That Would “Force A Vote On The Controversial Carbon Emissions Issue.”** “Reid was also a force in canceling committee consideration Thursday of a separate energy and water projects spending bill after McConnell appeared poised to win a vote aimed as an assault on new government rules on carbon emissions from existing coal-fired power plants. Democrats feared that McConnell was also in a position to force a vote on the controversial carbon emissions issue on the floor measure, which appeared to be a major factor in Reid's insistence on a filibuster-proof margin for amendments to that measure.” (Andrew Taylor, “Democratic Leader Reid Pulls Spending Bill From Senate Floor After Spat With GOP's McConnell,” [The Associated Press](#), 6/19/14)

- **The Bill Would Have Required “Certification That Neither Electricity Prices Would Go Up, Nor Jobs Be Eliminated, As A Result Of Implementing New Rules On Existing Power Plants.”** “According to a senior GOP aide, the McConnell amendment would require certification that neither electricity prices would go up, nor jobs be eliminated, as a result of implementing new rules on existing power plants. Without such a certification, the rules would not be able to move forward. The Environmental Protection Agency outlined its plans on June 2, and McConnell has been pledging to use any tools at his disposal to stop the action.” (Niels Lesniewski, “McConnell Plots Coal Amendment To Energy Spending Bill,” [Roll Call](#), 6/17/14)