



Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Increase Congressional Accountability through Earmark Reform

Dear Colleague:

As guardians of taxpayer dollars we owe it to the citizens of the United States to be good stewards of their money. Yet, all too often, earmarks are funding embarrassing and unworthy projects. Congress has lost credibility because Member's spending requests fund "monuments-to-me," bizarre private enterprises, or projects to subsidize their family. Congress is bogged down by unjustifiable projects without a solution in sight!

For this reason, I am introducing a commonsense approach to reform the earmark process. By requiring transparency and accountability, this legislation will encourage Member's to respect the spending process for what it is- not as a personal slush fund. The measures of the bill are specified as follows:

- ❖ **PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS:** Prohibits earmarks from being used for non-public entities, except for institutions of higher education;
- ❖ **NO MORE "MONUMENTS TO ME":** Prohibits any earmark for any entity named after an individual serving in Congress;
- ❖ **PUBLIC ACCESS:** Requires Members to disclose earmark requests within 24 hours of making the request to the Clerk of the House, to be posted publicly on the Clerk's website in a uniform and searchable format;
- ❖ **STATE AND LOCAL SUPPORT:** Requires certification that non-federal recipients would provide matching funds of at least 10 percent of the earmark request. A letter from the potential recipient would have to accompany the request;
- ❖ **NO FAMILY PAYOUTS:** Requires that the Member of Congress certify no family member is a beneficiary of the funding.

This resolution will not only promote accountability and transparency in Congress, but push its Members in a direction that better serves their constituents. *I encourage you to cosponsor this measure* so we can make a concerted effort to bring credibility back to this great American institution.

If you have any questions or wish to cosponsor, please contact Ashley Fishburn in my office at 5-1252 or email Ashley.fishburn@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,


Adam H. Putnam