

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 5, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

Beyond sending a short-term continuing resolution to the President, Congress will likely take no further action on Fiscal Year 2011 spending bills until after November 2nd. Unfortunately, this sets up the potential for an end-of-year omnibus spending bill. While Congress should finish its business by considering appropriation bills, we write to urge you at a minimum to resist the temptation of including earmarks in any other post-election appropriations scenario.

Earmark lists made available coincident with Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations Subcommittee markups include thousands of earmarks worth more than \$3 billion. Due to the Republican earmark moratorium, all but the slightest fraction of these earmarks were requested by members of the majority. Consistent with previous years, the benefits of this year's earmarking process have unfortunately been showered on powerful members. Democrat leadership, committee chairs, and Appropriations Committee members made up slightly more than an eighth of the House. However, they were associated with more than forty percent of the earmarks included in this year's earmark lists and, at more than \$1.5 billion, greater than half of their dollar value. In addition, thousands of earmarks, worth billions of dollars, have yet to receive even the perfunctory review provided by a full committee markup. This is particularly troublesome given the persistent controversy surrounding Fiscal Year 2011 earmarks. In July, the *New York Times* reported that, despite the ban on earmarks for for-profit companies, "the pay-to-play culture in Washington has once again proved hard to suppress" and that it appears non-profit companies have been incorporated specifically to skirt the ban. In addition, many projects raise the specter of government waste and the need for a thorough review. For example, a \$300,000 earmark intended for the city of Bell, California is among the earmarks yet to be thoroughly vetted. The city of Bell has been in the news recently, with the arrest of eight current and former city officials on multiple charges including misappropriating \$5.5 million.

Taxpayers deserve to have appropriations legislation considered under an open and transparent process. At a minimum, taxpayers should be protected from thousands of unvetted earmarks, produced by a process driven by a spoils system, being stuffed into any end-of-year appropriations measure and shielded from review. Having made the decision to leave earmarks out of the final Fiscal Year 2006 spending plan, there is precedent for the majority taking such a step. We appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Geff Fahn

John Boehm

Eric Cantor

Kevin McCarth

Shirley Penn

Cathy McKeown-Rodgers

Frank A. McCall

Thomas P. ~~...~~

Jim Jordan

Dr. Zytis

M. Paul T. McAl

Jean Heller

~~Steve Clarke~~

Paul Ryan

John Campbell

John Kline

Jan Benton

Dan Rubin

Fred Meyer

Doug Walsh

Connie Mack

Tom Graves GA-9

Don Manzullo

Lehman TX-7

Pete Hoehnt

Franklin AZ-2
Wally Herger

Mike Cohen

By Pitts PA-16

Pete Olson

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Jim Hendery

Blaine Lundy MO-09

Steffensberg TX-5

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Juan Serrano

Cheryl Gray CA-11

Scott Marrett NJ-05

Levi Brown TX-8

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Paul Hsu CA-49

Joy Wilson

Alexandra Blacoma

Paul Brown

Sue Myrick

David P. Roe

Julia Coff

Carriann Smith

Sybil Jenkins

Doug Lamborn

Rahm E. Iqbal

Jim Jim

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Page 2

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Page 3

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Page 4

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