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Dick Armey
Chairman

March 10, 2010

Dear Member of the House Republican Conference:

As Chairman of FreedomWorks, an 880,000-member grassroots organization that promotes lower taxes, less government, and more freedom, I am writing to urge your support of an earmark moratorium. On behalf of the members and supporters of FreedomWorks, I urge Congress to take this important step towards fiscal responsibility and taming the spiraling federal deficit.

For too long, earmarks have been the lifeblood of Washington. In Fiscal Year 2009 earmarks totaled more than \$20 billion as special interest lobbyists worked the halls of Congress for pet projects in favored districts. Congress has become a favor factory with more and more politicians slipping wasteful, pork-ridden earmarks into bills that eventually become law. From the "Bridge to Nowhere" and the "Charlie Rangel Center for Public Service" to more recent earmarks requested for studying the use of cocaine by monkeys and a dance theater in North Carolina, the earmark continues to rule Washington.

Republicans have an opportunity to rehabilitate their standing with the American people by acting to stop earmarks within their own caucus, a step Speaker Pelosi refuses to consider. Voters are fed up with both the corruption and reckless spending in going on in Washington, and politically motivated earmarking is symptomatic of both problems.

A moratorium on earmarks demonstrates a commitment to smaller government and less waste. On the heels of recent Wall Street bailouts and unprecedented stimulus spending, taxpayers are wary of the excesses of government. With an estimated deficit of \$1.5 trillion in Fiscal Year 2010, Americans cannot afford business-as-usual in Washington. Taxpayers want less government and responsible government. Supporting a moratorium on earmarks is a first and important step towards that goal.

Sincerely,

Dick Armey