



ADVANCING AMERICAN FREEDOM

April 4, 2024

Dear Congressional Republicans:

Last month, the American people saw the corrupting and corrosive influence of earmarks on full display. Under the guise of “Community Project Funding,” Congress passed a \$1.2 trillion spending bill containing earmarks for abortion centers, organizations that indoctrinate children in gender ideology without their parents’ knowledge, climate activist groups, and a blatantly antisemitic organization.

In total, the fiscal year 2024 spending bills contained 8,099 earmarks accounting for \$14.6 billion in taxpayer funds.¹

This never should have happened. However, the remedy is simple and the same as always: ban earmarks.

Banning earmarks is nothing new. Conservatives fought more than two decades ago to ban the practice. House Republican Conference rules explicitly banned earmarks for over a decade. In fact, earmarks were so unpopular that President Obama pledged to veto any bill containing earmarks and Speaker Pelosi held the gavel for two years before reinstating the practice. Far from a foreign concept, House Republican Conference rules didn’t permit the practice until March 2021, when House Republicans voted 102-84 to resurrect earmarks. Senate Republicans banned earmarks for twelve years before bringing the practice back in 2022.

We urge you to ban earmarks and return to previous Republican congressional precedent.

Sincerely,

Paul Teller
Executive Director
Advancing American Freedom

Ryan Walker
Executive Vice President
Heritage Action

¹ Jack Fitzpatrick, “Republicans Who Backed Earmark Bans Bring Home Money Anyway,” *Bloomberg*, March 22, 2024. <https://news.bgov.com/bloomberg-government-news/republicans-who-backed-earmark-bans-bring-home-money-anyway>



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Tony Perkins
President
Family Research Council

Kristan Hawkins
President, Student for Life Action
Students for Life of America

Adam Andrzejewski
CEO & Founder
OpenTheBooks.com

Kristen A. Ullman
President
Eagle Forum

Tom McClusky
Director of Government Affairs
CatholicVote

Thomas H. Jones
President
American Accountability Foundation

Paul Winfree
President and CEO
Economic Policy Innovation Center

Lisa B. Nelson
Chief Executive Officer
ALEC Action

Andrew Roth
President
State Freedom Caucus Network

Horace Cooper
Chairman
Project 21 Black Leadership Network

Shannon O. Royce, J.D.
President
Christian Employers Alliance (CEA)

Greg Sindelar
Chief Executive Officer
Texas Public Policy Foundation

Nate Dunning
Chairman
Young Conservatives of Texas

Daniel J. Erspamer
Chief Executive Officer
Pelican Institute for Public Policy

Robert Alt
President and CEO
The Buckeye Institute