



March 10, 2010

To: All Members of the House Republican Conference
RE: Unilateral Earmark Moratorium

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Dear Member of the House Republican Conference,

As the House Republican Conference is set to convene a special conference meeting Thursday to discuss the issue, **we write to urge your support for placing an immediate party-wide moratorium on earmarks.**

Taxpayers have become increasingly frustrated with the Congressional practice of earmarking. The process lacks transparency and accountability and the results are often frivolous and wasteful.

While overall spending levels and a lack of general spending discipline continue to be the main problem, earmarks have become emblematic of what taxpayers perceive as the problem in Washington, DC.

It is time for the Republican Party to reclaim its branding as the party of Ronald Reagan - the party of fiscal conservatism. By adhering to a self-imposed unilateral moratorium for the remainder of this Congress, you would signal to the disenchanted grassroots that you are serious about returning fiscal discipline to Washington, DC.

Democrats once pledged to end the era of earmarks around election time only to proceed with business as usual. The moratorium would provide an opportunity for conservatives to set themselves apart and allow for reflection and review of the appropriations process which taxpayers perceive as broken.

Taxpayers, many of whom are struggling to make ends meet, are looking for you to support the effort to impose a unilateral conference-wide earmark moratorium.

Onward,

Grover G. Norquist
President
Americans for Tax Reform

Sandra Fabry
Executive Director
Center for Fiscal Accountability