



Office of Congressman Jeff Flake

## *News Release*

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### **Congressman Flake Urges Moratorium on Earmarks** *Bush Budget Requires Fiscal Restraint by Congress*

**Mesa, Arizona** - Arizona Congressman Jeff Flake, who represents the state's Sixth District, today called for a moratorium on earmarked appropriations. Earmarks are spending items slipped into appropriations bills without appropriate congressional oversight.

**"Quite simply, the appropriations process is out of control,"** said Flake.

**"President Bush's budget proposal is going to test how serious Congress is about fiscal restraint, and I'm not convinced that we can achieve a responsible budget without a moratorium on earmarks."**

**"Earmarks bear much of the blame for the recent Republican spending binge. Not only is Congress shelling out billions of dollars every year on projects that are never properly scrutinized, but Members receiving earmarks in a spending bill are essentially locked into voting for it, regardless of how irresponsible it becomes."**

**"At the very least, a temporary moratorium on earmarks would allow the Republican Party to do some soul-searching and allow us to reassess whether we want to try to regain the mantle of the party of fiscal discipline."**

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