

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 18, 2008

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

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations  
United States House of Representatives  
H-218, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker and Chairman Obey:

It is becoming increasingly unlikely that the remaining fiscal year 2009 appropriations bills will be considered on the floor of the House of Representatives this session. As you consider legislative options for concluding this year's appropriations process, we write to secure your commitment that any potential continuing resolution or omnibus spending bill (or House report) will not contain any earmarks that have not been debated on the House floor. The cost of these "airdropped" earmarks could total in the billions of dollars.

To date, five appropriations bills including nearly 3,000 earmarks worth more than \$4.5 billion have been favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee. Media reports have also indicated that the ultimate level of spending on earmarks in the fiscal year 2009 appropriation bills could be as high as the \$18.3 billion spent on earmarks last year. Even those who support the practice of earmarking agree that any earmarks that end up in end-of-year spending legislation should be subject to debate on the House floor, similar to those earmarks in the military construction and veterans affairs bill.

Speaker Pelosi, you have indicated your commitment to "auditing the books and subjecting every facet of federal spending to tough budget discipline and accountability." We hope you would agree that allowing earmarks to be approved in spending bills without so much as a cursory vetting on the House floor would be inconsistent with this pledge.

Sincerely,

Jeff Fleck

Jim Hansen

John Campbell

Michael T. McCal

Marsha Blackburn

Marilyn Musgrave

John Kline

Peter P. King

Paul Brown

Thom Tillis

John Boehner

Julie Perry

Tom Shadegg

Thomas Blunt

Cathy McMoran-Rodgers

Michelle Bachman

Long Samborn

D. Reichert

Tom Feeney

Rob E. Jones

*[Handwritten signature]*

Dan Bunt

Bill Sali

Mary Hallin O'K-5

Virgil Goode VA-5

*[Handwritten signature]*

Bob Dugan

Ralph M. Hall

Howard Coble

*[Handwritten signature]*

Paul Ryan

Scott Garrett

Henry E. Brown J

Mark J. TX-29

*[Handwritten signature]* SE-3

Chif Ding GA-11

Todd R. Platts

**Members Signing:**

Rep. Jeff Flake  
Rep. Jeb Hensarling  
Rep. John Campbell  
Rep. Michael McCaul  
Rep. Marsha Blackburn  
Rep. Marilyn Musgrave  
Rep. John Kline  
Rep. Patrick McHenry  
Rep. Paul Broun  
Rep. Thaddeus McCotter

Rep. Jeff Fortenberry  
Rep. Dan Burton  
Rep. William Sali  
Rep. Mary Fallin  
Rep. Virgil Goode  
Rep. Roscoe Bartlett  
Rep. Bob Inglis  
Rep. Ralph Hall  
Rep. Howard Coble

Republican Leader Boehner  
Rep. Mike Pence  
Rep. John Shadegg  
Rep. Tom Price  
Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Rep. Michele Bachmann  
Rep. Doug Lamborn  
Rep. Dave Reichert  
Rep. Tom Feeney  
Rep. Robert Latta

Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner  
Rep. Paul Ryan  
Rep. Scott Garrett  
Rep. Henry Brown, Jr.  
Rep. Kenny Marchant  
Rep. J. Gresham Barrett  
Rep. Phil Gingrey  
Rep. Todd Platts