



U.S. REPRESENTATIVE
MICHAEL MCCAUL
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March 13, 2009

Dear Friends,

Omnibus Appropriations

Despite pleas to President Obama from my Republican colleagues and me, the Omnibus bill that gained final passage in the Senate Tuesday was signed in to law. This \$410 billion budget is supposed to fund the necessities of federal government for the remainder of FY'09. Instead, it contains more than 8,500 earmarks, totaling \$7.7 billion in irresponsible deficit spending. Items in this spending spree include \$1.8 million for swine odor waste research and \$21 million to put salmon into a river that has run dry for 70 years. I did not request earmarks in the Omnibus bill. I stopped requesting earmarks at the beginning of 2008 because the system is susceptible to waste, fraud and abuse.

The day after the bill passed, Democrats announced an earmark 'reforms' initiative. Unfortunately, the reforms were a day late and several billion dollars short. While it makes the process more transparent it does not ensure earmarks are granted by merit of the project instead of by a Member's seniority or position. The system should be 100% transparent as to the sponsor and recipient, and subject to an up or down vote in the House. Until that happens, I continue to ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me and not take part in the system.



Congressman McCaul meets with members of the Capitol Metro board of directors.



Congressman McCaul meets with members of the Texas State Association of Letter Carriers.

District 10 Listening Posts

Beginning next week, my office will resume its "Listening Posts". This is a valuable opportunity for constituents to discuss federal issues with my staff that I am able to address at the Congressional level. I encourage all of you to drop by to ask questions, voice concerns, or simply introduce yourself.

Pattison Listening Post

Thursday, March 26, 2009
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 am
Justice Court, Precinct 4, Waller County, TX
Corner of Avenue G and First Street in Pattison, TX

Sealy Listening Post

Thursday, March 26, 2009
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
City Council Chamber
415 Main St, Sealy, TX
Sealy, TX

Lexington Listening Post

Friday, March 20
10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Woodson Community Building

Giddings Listening Post

Friday, March 20
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
City Council Chambers at City Hall
118 E. Richmond St.

IN THE NEWS

FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 10:00PM on [KVUE-TV Austin](#)

Congressman McCaul appears in a special report:



Click [here](#) for reporter Jim Bergamo's preview of the story.

Houston Chronicle- National Guard called last resort at border:

http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10_mccaul/morenews/powell.html

Brenham Banner- Obama OKs 'imperfect' spending bill-- McCaul's strenuous objections not enough to get a veto:

http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10_mccaul/morenews/banner.html

KENS-TV San Antonio- Border Violence

http://www.house.gov/list/press/tx10_mccaul/morenews/3_12_2009.html

I wish you and your family a happy and safe weekend and Spring Break.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael T. McCaul".

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

**** If you would like to register to receive the McCaul Minute click [here](#)**