

May 1, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Minority Leader

Dear Congressional Leaders,

More than three years ago, members of Congress in both chambers from both parties stood together to impose a moratorium on the practice of congressional earmarking.

The American people celebrated this bipartisan leadership. But, recently, we have noted that members on both sides of the aisle are calling for a return to earmarking. We believe this would be unwise and would further damage Congress' reputation and ability to tackle the nation's challenges.

We recognize there are a wide range of views on this subject in our caucuses but we believe it is important to reaffirm our support for this policy. Congress has ample flexibility to exercise its power of the purse and represent the interests of our constituents without using earmarks. For instance, the appropriations process under regular order and our oversight authority gives members ample opportunity to set priorities and vet decisions with their elected peers.

We therefore urge you to pledge your continued support for the earmark moratorium and do everything in your power to work together to address the nation's highest priorities without the unhelpful distraction of earmarks.

Sincerely,

Tom A. Coburn, M.D.
United States Senator

Mark Udall
United States Senator