May 29, 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
Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Kelly Ayotte
United States Senator

John Barrasso
United States Senator

Richard Burr
United States Senator

Daniel Coats
United States Senator

Bob Corker
United States Senator

John Cornyn
United States Senator

Michael Enzi
United States Senator

Ted Cruz
United States Senator

Jeff Flake
United States Senator

Deb Fischer
United States Senator

Chuck Grassley
United States Senator

Lindsey Graham
United States Senator

Ron Johnson
United States Senator

Mike Johanns
United States Senator

John McCain
United States Senator

Michael S. Lee
United States Senator

Rand Paul
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator
James E. Risch
United States Senator

Marco Rubio
United States Senator

Jeff Sessions
United States Senator

Tim Scott
United States Senator

Pat Toomey
United States Senator

John Thune
United States Senator

David Vitter
United States Senator

Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress

Ron DeSantis
Member of Congress

Paul A. Gosar
Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

James Lankford
Member of Congress

Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress