Jan. 16, 2007

Dear Senator:

Taxpayers want to end the problems of corruption and overspending in Washington, of which wasteful pork-barrel earmarks are one of the most visible symptoms. **Because of the appearance of corruption entailed in family members of senators or Senate staffers lobbying for earmarks, we urge you to vote YES on Senate Amendment 51 to S.1 and will include this vote as a Key Vote for taxpayers’ prosperity in our congressional scorecard.**

This amendment, sponsored by Sen. Tom Coburn, would prohibit any senator from using his or her official position to secure earmarks that financially benefit a senator, senator’s spouse, senator’s immediate family member, staffer, staffer’s spouse, or staffer’s immediate family member.

This is a common sense reform that will alleviate the perception and reality of corruption created by a system in which lobbyists who are related to senators can take advantage of their relationships to secure taxpayer dollars for their clients.

A vote against Amendment 51 is a vote in favor of allowing people with family connections to the Senate to exploit those connections for personal financial benefit at taxpayer expense. We therefore urge you to vote YES on Sen. Coburn’s Amendment 51.

Sincerely,

Tim Phillips
President
Americans for Prosperity

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Americans for Prosperity (AFP) is the nation’s premier grassroots organization committed to advancing every individual’s right to economic freedom and opportunity. AFP believes reducing the size and scope of government is the best safeguard to ensuring individual productivity and prosperity for all Americans. AFP educates and engages citizens in support of restraining state and federal government growth, and returning government to its constitutional limits. For more information, visit www.americansforprosperity.org

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