COUNCIL FOR

**CITIZENS
AGAINST
GOVERNMENT
WASTE**

Thomas A. Schatz
President

October 4, 2007

The U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

You will soon vote on two amendments to H.R. 3093, the Fiscal Year 2008 Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act that will be offered by Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) On behalf of the more than 1.2 million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I ask that you support these amendments.

Amdt. 3242 strikes a $2 million earmark for an exhibit at a visitors' center in Thunder Bay, Michigan and shift the savings to the National Hurricane Center (NHC). Museums are certainly educational and interesting, but they do not address the main mission of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). However, monitoring hurricanes is an essential mission of NOAA. Transferring these funds will help all citizens properly prepare for hurricanes.

Amdt. 3243 will transfer funding from six unnecessary earmarks to the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division to prosecute unsolved crimes from the Civil Rights Era. The more than 600 earmarks contained in H.R. 3093 will cost taxpayers more than $458 million but many have nothing to do with enhancing the work at the agencies funded by this appropriations bill. This amendment will eliminate or delay funding for only six earmarks. They are a Maritime Museum in Mobile, Alabama; the Eye-On-The-Sky Museum and Planetarium in St. Johnsbury, Vermont; the Adler Planetarium in Chicago, Illinois; the Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama; the installation of buoys marking the John Smith National Water Trail on the Chesapeake Bay; and an undersea vehicle for the Mystic Aquarium-Institute for Exploration in Connecticut.

In a time of budget constraints, a huge debt, and a war on terrorism, we must prioritize our spending. CCAGW urges you to support these amendments. All votes on these amendments and H.R. 3093 will be among those considered for CCAGW's *2007 Congressional Ratings.*

Sincerely,

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