

June 16, 2008

To: All Members of the House Republican Conference

Re: Support for unilateral, self-imposed moratorium on earmarks

Dear Member of the House Republican Conference,

We, the undersigned chairpersons of the nation's Center-Right coalition meetings, write to urge you to support a self-imposed unilateral earmark moratorium.

Our coalition representing the grassroots of the center-right movement—taxpayers, home schoolers, family groups, Second Amendment groups, business groups and individual businessmen and women, and other members of what comprises our country's center-right—is concerned that the brand of the party of Ronald Reagan, and fiscal conservatism, has been severely damaged.

Despite Democrat campaign promises to end the era of earmarks, spending bills for FY 2008 contain about \$20 billion in pork projects. **While that may only be the tip of the iceberg in terms of total spending figures, earmarks have become the broken windows of the federal budget.** The opaque earmarking process paired and a series of examples of corruption and self-aggrandizement have left taxpayers frustrated.

In the wake of bridges to nowhere and indoor-rainforests, the grassroots are looking to the Republican Conference to reclaim the party brand. America cannot wait for the Democrats to get on board with meaningful earmark reform. A self-imposed party-wide ban on earmarks for the remainder of the 110th Congress would send a strong message to disenfranchised constituents around the country that fiscal discipline has returned to Washington, and would provide an opportunity to study and review the appropriations process to devise a process that allows for greater transparency, accountability and legitimacy.

We urge you to support the Republican Study Committee's efforts to impose a unilateral party-wide earmark moratorium.

Sincerely,