



# AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist  
*President*

July 9, 2008

To: All Members of the House Republican Conference:  
Re: Support for unilateral, self-imposed moratorium on earmarks

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Dear Member of the House Republican Conference,

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform and millions of American taxpayers, I write to urge your support for putting an immediate party-wide moratorium on earmarks.

In the wake of bridges to nowhere and indoor-rainforests, taxpayers are becoming increasingly frustrated with the congressional practice of earmarking. The process lacks transparency and accountability and the results are often frivolous and wasteful.

While overall spending levels and a lack of general spending discipline continue to be the main problem, earmarks have become emblematic of what taxpayers perceive as the problem in Washington, DC.

It is time for the Republican Party to reclaim its branding as the party of Ronald Reagan - the party of fiscal conservatism. By adhering to a self-imposed unilateral moratorium for the remainder of this Congress, you would signal to the disenchanted grassroots that you are serious about returning fiscal discipline to Washington, DC.

Democrats once pledged to end the era of earmarks around election time only to proceed with business as usual. The moratorium would provide an opportunity for conservatives to set themselves apart and allow for reflection and review of the appropriations process which taxpayers perceive as broken.

Taxpayers, many of whom are struggling to make ends meet, are looking for you to support the Republican Study Committee's efforts to impose a unilateral party-wide earmark moratorium.

Onward,

Grover G. Norquist