

July 8, 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 with a series of examples of corruption and self-aggrandizement has 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,



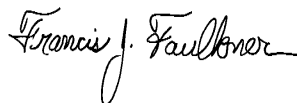
Michael Quinn Sullivan
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Texas



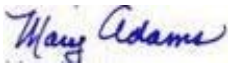
Brandon Dutcher
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Oklahoma



Richard Falknor,
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Maryland



Chip Faulkner
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Massachusetts



Mary Adams
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Maine



Edward R. Martin, Jr.
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Missouri



Chuck Muth
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Nevada



Don Racheter,
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Iowa



Greg Blankenship
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Illinois



Ben Cunningham
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Tennessee




Bill Felkner
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Rhode Island



Dick Rowland
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Hawaii (Oahu)



Henry Kriegel
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Montana



Mark Block
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Wisconsin



Bob Williams
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Washington



Deb Owens
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Ohio



Jason Williams
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Oregon



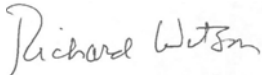
Todd Kruse
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Minnesota



Jon Caldara
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Colorado



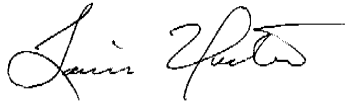
Laura Lee Adams
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Utah



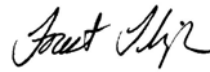
Rick Watson
Co-Chair, Center-Right coalition
Florida



Bruce Larsen
Chair, Center-Right coalition
New Mexico (Santa Fe)



Louie Hunter
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Georgia



Forest Thigpen
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Mississippi



Kevin Kane
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Louisiana

Charlie Gerow
Chair, Center-Right coalition,
Pennsylvania

Mike Dyer
Chair, Center-Right coalition
Hawaii (Kauai)