



AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

May 21, 2008

The Honorable George W. Bush
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Dear Mr. President:

On January 28, 2008, you demonstrated leadership in issuing Executive Order 13457, "Protecting American Taxpayers From Government Spending on Wasteful Earmarks."

Unfortunately, a provision was slipped into H.R. 5658, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, which would prohibit the application of your executive order to earmarks in the joint explanatory report or committee reports.

American taxpayers are tired of secrecy and shell games in the appropriations process – and rightfully so. It is time to rein in government spending, starting with the broken windows of the federal budget: earmarks. Therefore, it is crucial that your executive order remain intact to fulfill its goal of shedding light on pork-barrel spending and reducing the number and cost of earmarks.

Should Section 1431 of the Defense Authorization Act become enacted, it would be a deplorable step backward for all earmark reform efforts. An amendment to strike this onerous provision is currently being offered by Rep. Jeff Flake (R-AZ-6), and we urge members of Congress to support the amendment.

However, should the amendment not be adopted, I ask on behalf of Americans for Tax Reform and millions of American taxpayers, that you consider vetoing H.R. 5658, and that you make your intention of doing so clear to members of Congress and the American public.

Onward,

Grover Norquist