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OMB Director Rob Portman Statement on Initial Phase of Earmark Database

WASHINGTON- "On January 3, 2007 President Bush called on Congress to cut the number and cost of earmarks by at least half. To help establish a benchmark for accurately measuring the President's goal, OMB requested agencies provide data on the earmarks for FY2005, with the intent of making the information available to the public. The initial phase of the database is now available on OMB's web site www.omb.gov.

"The earmarks database is consistent with the Administration's overall effort to bring greater transparency to federal spending. The website provides aggregate-level data down to the agency and account level. This begins to establish a benchmark from which to judge and achieve the President's cut in half goal. OMB will continue to review and certify additional data and will post it as it is available and verified. This database provides more accurate information on earmarks in one place than has ever been available through the Federal Government. Today's launch marks an important first step towards providing greater transparency, accountability and integrity to federal spending as well as the overall budgetary process."

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