



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

May 31, 2007

M-07-17

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM:

Rob Portman

PURPOSE:

Tracking Earmarks in the 2008 Appropriations Process

Over the past few months, OMB has posted information on all Congressional earmarks in 2005 appropriations bills on its public website. This 2005 earmarks database is based on information provided by your agency. The database has provided unprecedented transparency to the American public, and has been favorably received. The timely completion of this database would not have been possible without the assistance of you and your team.

A key purpose of the data collection for 2005 appropriations bills was to provide a transparent baseline from which we will measure the President's goal of cutting the number and cost of earmarks by at least half. To monitor the number and cost of earmarks in FY 2008 appropriations bills we need to rapidly identify earmarks in each of these bills as they move through the legislative process.

Definition

We will continue to use the definition used in the baseline 2005 data collection:

Earmarks are funds provided by the Congress for projects or programs where the congressional direction (in bill or report language) circumvents Executive Branch merit-based or competitive allocation processes, or specifies the location or recipient, or otherwise curtails the ability of the Executive Branch to manage critical aspects of the funds allocation process.

Requirements and timeline for the 2008 tracking process

Agencies should report to OMB the **number and dollar value of earmarks in each account within seven days after an appropriations bill is reported by the House or Senate Appropriations committee or passes the House or Senate Floor.** In addition, agencies should provide a PDF of the relevant language for each earmark, or a PDF of a spreadsheet listing each earmark in lieu of the relevant language, which may be made available to the public. For Conference committee reports, which are often considered quickly, agencies should expedite their analysis and provide it as soon as possible, but also within no more than seven days. Providing this information as rapidly as possible will enable us to monitor progress relative to the President's goal.