

# News from Congressman Pat Toomey

Pennsylvania's 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

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## Rep. Toomey: Politicians Must Trim Their Appetites for Pork

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – Fiscally conservative U.S. Rep. Pat Toomey, R-PA, on Wednesday called on politicians to trim out the fat they hide in federal spending bills. Politicians forced more than 10,000 pork-barrel spending projects – costing Americans nearly \$23 billion – in FY 2004 spending bills, Congressman Toomey pointed out.

“Pork-barrel spending is the least-defensible and one of the fastest-growing areas of federal spending,” Congressman Toomey said. “Too many politicians have used earmarks as a way of spending public funds in hopes of purchasing political gains for themselves. This price of politics, unfortunately, is billed to taxpayers,” Toomey said.

Congressman Toomey applauded Citizens Against Government Waste (CAGW) for their strong leadership in the fight to restore greater fiscal discipline in federal government. CAGW unveiled its Pig Book for 2004 today.

The number of pork-barrel earmarks has increased to 10,000 per year, which is a five-fold increase since 1998, and now costs taxpayers almost \$23 billion per year. Some of the pork projects receiving taxpayer money this year include: \$50 million to build an indoor tropical rain forest in Iowa, \$500,000 to study sheep in Montana, and \$2 million to teach golf lessons in Florida.

Congressman Toomey is well-known as a budget hawk in Congress, and is a member of the House Committee on the Budget.

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