



May 20, 2005

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Rep. Garrett Introduces Amendment to Limit Abuse of Federal Tax-Payer Dollars

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Yesterday, Rep. Scott Garrett (NJ-05) offered an amendment to H.R. 2361, the Fiscal Year 2006 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, limiting the number of Federal employees attending international conferences.

“My constituents often ask me why Congress continues to spend so much despite the fact that we have a deficit and an ever growing national debt,” Garrett explained. “This amendment represents common sense and fiscal discipline.”

In the past, international conferences have had hundreds of Federal employees attending, costing an excessive amount of tax dollars. This amendment states that no more than 50 federal employees will be permitted to attend an international conference funded under this bill.

“While it may be important to send scientists, experts and essential staff overseas to attend conferences, I believe 50 people attending a single conference is more than sufficient,” said Garrett. “It would be irresponsible to pass on the cost of these luxuries to the next generation as part of the national debt. Furthermore, if given the choice on how to spend limited resources, we should prioritize our money on our most important areas rather than these conferences.”

This amendment was approved by the House of Representatives.

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