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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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Set Responsible Limits for Emergency Appropriations
Cosponsor the REAL Supplemental Act

Dear Colleague:

Yesterday President Bush submitted his updated supplemental spending request. Before Congress considers another supplemental spending bill that grows rapidly, we need to change the rules to limit what is included in supplementals. I have reintroduced the REAL Supplemental Act (H.R. 3857), which sets three criteria for future supplementals enforceable by point of order:

- 1) A Supplemental must provide for only a single emergency**
- 2) A Supplemental must contain only emergency spending**
- 3) A Supplemental must be free of earmarks**

As we have seen over and over again, supplemental spending bills quickly become magnets for spending unrelated to the original purpose, for spending that is not an emergency and can wait until the regular appropriations process and for extra earmarks.

The time to reform the way Congress considers supplemental spending bills is now --- before we take up the next supplemental spending bill for continued operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The REAL Supplemental Act (**R**esponsible **E**mergency **A**ppropriation **L**imits) makes a distinction between what should be included in an emergency supplemental and what should not be. Until we change the rules and prohibit unrelated, non-emergency and earmark spending items from getting into supplementals, Congress will continue to produce irresponsible legislation. Having clear rules for supplementals will reduce excessive spending.

If you would like to cosponsor the REAL Supplemental Act, please contact Kathy Bergren of my staff at Kathy.Bergren@mail.house.gov or 5-4005.

Sincerely,



Randy Neugebauer