

**Wally
Herger**
Congressman

2nd District - California



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Herger Lauds Passage of Earmark Reform Measure

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Congressman Wally Herger yesterday voted for H. Res. 1000, a change to House rules that will bring greater transparency and accountability to the practice of "earmarking" federal funds for a particular purpose. H. Res. 1000 will require that measures explicitly state the names of Representatives who sponsor individual earmarks, and will provide a mechanism for the House to block unclaimed earmarks. The House passed this resolution by a vote of 245 to 171. Because it is a House resolution, it does not require Senate approval, and takes effect immediately. Herger made the following statement regarding House passage of this rule change:

"The American people are rightfully outraged when their taxpayer money is spent on low priority or completely indefensible projects," Herger stated. "Too often taxpayer money has been directed to projects that don't have a federal connection and are a poor use of limited federal funds. This important rule change requires members to stand ready to defend their earmark requests. By bringing much-needed sunshine to federal legislation, we will increase transparency and accountability and thereby hopefully eliminate abuses of taxpayer dollars, like the 'Bridge to Nowhere.'

"Local communities and leaders in Northern California sometimes bring to my attention specific high-priority projects that deserve federal support," continued Herger. "I will continue to work to ensure that the North State gets its fair share of federal funding for such projects. But I will also continue to demand that any project request meet a high standard before I will consider seeking funding for it."

Herger concluded, "While this House rule change is a first step toward reducing irresponsible earmarks, Congress must also address the bigger problem right in front of our eyes: the unsustainable growth in entitlement spending, which currently accounts for fifty-four percent of federal spending. We must not leave this serious problem on the backs of future generations. That's why I'm part of the steadily growing Republican Study Committee, a group that is committed to getting our budget back in order by eliminating wasteful spending and supporting responsible and much-needed entitlement reforms."

For more information, log on to <http://www.house.gov/herger> on the Internet!