

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2011

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
2406 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Denny Rehberg
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies
2448 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education and
Related Agencies
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Chairman Rehberg, Ranking Member Dicks and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Thank you for your leadership and diligent efforts to complete the Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations process.

We write to you regarding the Republican conference's November 18, 2010 adoption of a moratorium on all earmarks through the 112th Congress. We respectfully ask that you review the definition of "earmark" under clause 9(e) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives to clarify that this term does not apply to authorized, national programs.

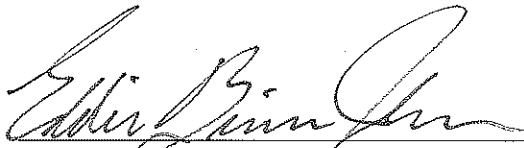
Authorized, national programs which have been designated by the Appropriations Committee as "National Projects," are wholly different from congressionally-directed spending items, which only benefit a specific state, congressional district or region, and change year to year. These programs, on the other hand, have been authorized in federal legislation, are nationally-structured and have an established history of bipartisan support. Such programs benefit millions of individuals and families nationwide, in a majority of states, districts, and regions. It is evident that national, authorized programs are not what has invoked the public's demand for earmark reform and should not be classified as such.

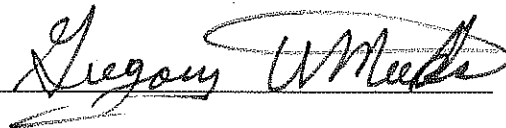
These authorized entities were considered as programmatic for decades prior to the 110th Congress when the passage of a bill to institute Rules of the House established a broad definition of the term "earmark." We believe it was not the intent of the authorization committees to establish these programs as "earmarks." We urge you to revisit the definition of "earmark" to clarify its application, and exclude nationally authorized programs. Should you have any questions please contact Aprille Raabe in Congressman Don Young's office at 225-5765 or

aprille.raabe@mail.house.gov. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter more thoroughly, and look forward to a positive resolution of this issue.


Sincerely,

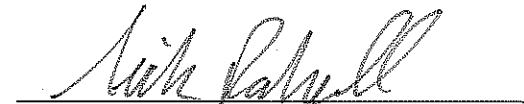

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Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson

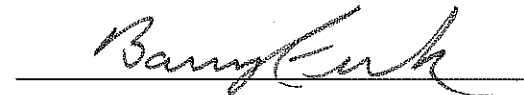

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Cynthia Lummis

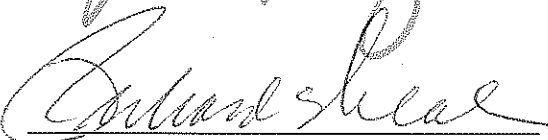

Barry Curb


Mike McIntyre

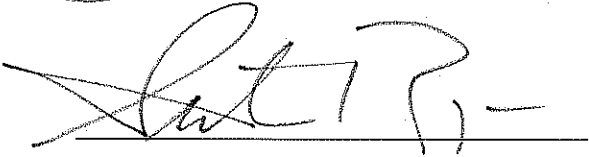

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Pat Williams

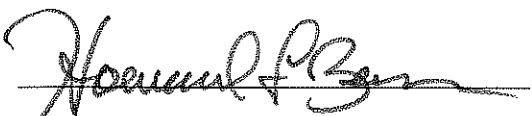

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Joe Cannon

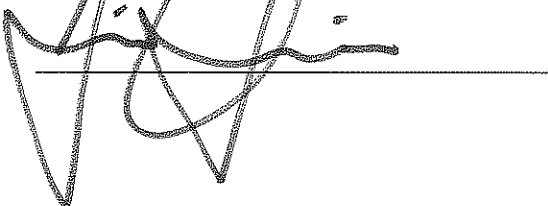

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