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Dear Friends,

Earmark Moratorium

I am encouraged that every House Republican has joined me in a stand against a broken and corrupt earmark process. Last week House Republicans voted in favor of a [moratorium](#) on earmarks, an important first step in reforming this broken and corrupt process. Over two years ago, I took an unpopular stand by refusing to participate in this system until it is reformed. Earmarks must be 100% transparent as to the sponsor and recipient, and each earmark must be subject to an up or down vote on the House floor. I am proud to have been one of 35 members who signed a [letter](#) to the Republican leadership requesting the moratorium. The American people deserve a real commitment to stop spending their hard-earned money on wasteful special interest pork projects.

Healthcare Vote Ahead

Despite the growing, unpopular sentiment for a government takeover of the healthcare system, the Obama administration and the Democratic leadership are employing several procedural gimmicks to desperately push a vote on a healthcare reform [bill](#). It is expected that the House will vote by this weekend on the 2,700 page Senate healthcare bill that was passed on Christmas Eve. It is expected that a second healthcare bill will follow including changes from both the President and the House-passed bill in order to garner enough support. I continue to oppose any government takeover of our healthcare system.

Directing the President to Remove the US Armed Forces From Afghanistan

Last Wednesday, the House voted against H. Con. Res 248 that would have required the President to remove US troops from Afghanistan either within 30 days or by December 31. I voted against this. We must continue our mission to root out anti-American terrorism, and we should only withdraw our troops based on conditions on the ground, not an arbitrary deadline.

Houston Commuter Rail

The Gulf Coast Rail District has received a \$715,000 federal grant to conduct a study on a commuter rail line that will extend approximately 40 miles to the northwest of Houston. The study will examine potential ridership, how many stations are needed and where to connect into Houston Metro. I applaud the Gulf Coast Rail District for its efforts to obtain this funding. I will continue to work hand in hand with county, state and federal entities to ensure that this project moves forward in a timely manner.

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Congressman McCaul helps honor Mildred "Millie" Dalrymple of Austin with the Congressional Gold Medal. Dalrymple was among those recognized at a ceremony in Washington for service as a member of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) during World War II.



Congressman McCaul speaks at a DC press conference on efforts to maintain NASA's human space flight program.

With Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael T. McCaul".

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

This is an unattended mailbox, if you have additional comments and would like to contact Congressman McCaul, [please email me here](#).

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