



SENATOR CLAIRE MCCASKILL FIGHTING TO END THE PRACTICE OF EARMARKING



Never Requested an Earmark. Sen. McCaskill has never requested a single earmark during her time serving in the U.S. Senate.

Introduced Legislation to Permanently Ban Earmarks. In November 2011, Sen. McCaskill partnered with Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA) to introduce the bipartisan Earmark Elimination Act of 2011, legislation that would permanently ban earmarks from the legislative process. The legislation has been endorsed by multiple government reform organizations including Citizens Against Government Waste and the Taxpayers Protection Alliance.

Established an Earmark Moratorium for FY 2010, FY 2011, FY 2012 and FY 2013. In February 2010, Sen. McCaskill joined with Sen. Jim DeMint (R-SC) to introduce S. 2990, a bill to establish an earmark moratorium for fiscal years 2010 and 2011. The proposal sponsored by Senators McCaskill and DeMint was adopted by the leadership in both the Senate and the House, effectively establishing an earmark moratorium for FY 2010, FY 2011, FY 2012 and FY 2013.

Cosponsored a Bill to Establish a Searchable Earmark Database. In May 2010, Sen. McCaskill joined Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) to seek passage of the Earmark Transparency Act (S. 3335), legislation that would require the Secretary of the Senate to establish a unified and searchable public database of all congressional earmarks.

Introduced the Fiscal Discipline, Earmark Reform and Accountability Act. In January 2009, Sen. McCaskill joined with Senators John McCain (R-AZ) and Russ Feingold (D-WI) to introduce the Fiscal Discipline, Earmark Reform, and Accountability Act (S. 162), which would make it easier to remove earmarks from spending bills. Specifically, the bill would create a point of order against any appropriations bill or any amendment to an appropriations bill that contains an earmark. It would also create a point of order against a conference report unless it is available on a publicly accessible congressional website at least 48 hours before the vote. These points of order could be waived with the support of two thirds of the Senate.

Introduced Legislation to Help the Public Track the Earmark Process. In March 2009, Sen. McCaskill introduced S. Res. 63, legislation that would help the public track the earmark process by increasing transparency and closing several loopholes in Senate ethics rules. Specifically, the bill would require all earmarks in appropriations and authorization legislation be included in the bill text, change the Senate rules to require that all earmark requests be posted online within 48 hours

of when they are submitted, and allow a point of order to be raised against any bill that contains earmarks to private organizations and nonprofit entities.

Supported Landmark Ethics Reform That Increased Earmark Transparency. In August 2007, McCaskill voted for final passage of S.1, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007. The bill, which became law in September 2007, overhauled congressional lobbying and ethics rules for members and their staffs. It also barred the Senate from voting on a motion to proceed to a bill unless information about each earmark in the bill is posted online in a searchable format for at least 48 hours before the vote.

Won Passage of an Earmark-Free National Defense Authorization Act. In December 2011, Sen. McCaskill won a major victory with the passage of an earmark-free National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This marked the first time in decades that Congress has passed an NDAA totally free of earmarks, due in large part to McCaskill's successful four year fight against the culture of earmarking. McCaskill, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and Chairman of the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support, helped shape the National Defense Authorization Act of 2012, which overwhelmingly passed the U.S. Senate and included a pay raise for U.S. troops. McCaskill won passage of an amendment to the NDAA that banned earmarks from the legislation, after an attempt was made by the U.S. House of Representatives to circumvent an existing moratorium on earmarks, and insert nearly one billion dollars in pet projects.

Exposed Attempt to Circumvent Earmark Ban in the House. In December 2011, Sen. McCaskill released a comprehensive report finding that members of the U.S. House of Representatives attempted to circumvent their own self-imposed ban on earmarks by adding hundreds of earmarks to the House's National Defense Authorization Act for 2012 (NDAA). McCaskill's report uncovered an elaborate scheme put in place by House Armed Services Committee Chairman Buck McKeon that was designed explicitly to allow his committee's members to earmark in violation of the ban on earmarks in Congress. Succumbing to pressure from McCaskill, McKeon striped the \$700 million in earmarks from his bill, a clear admission that he and his colleagues had attempted to circumvent the earmark ban.