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August 21, 2006

Majority Leader John Boehner
1011 LHOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Boehner:

I applaud leadership for moving forward with earmark reform, and am encouraged by the recent announcement that the House will adopt and implement a comprehensive earmark reform rules change regardless of whether or not the House and Senate have produced a final lobbying and ethics reform conference report.

I am writing to inquire if this promised rule change will apply to the Labor, Health and Human Service, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2007. As you know, this is the sole spending bill awaiting House passage, and the prospect of this bill being considered before the rule change is made troubles me. Furthermore, it is important that these reforms apply not only to the labor appropriations bill, but also to the earmarks contained in the other appropriations bills and committee reports that the House had already approved this year.

It is important that the House rules are changed before any other spending bill is considered in order to provide for transparency and accountability in the earmarking process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Flake".

JEFF FLAKE
Member of Congress