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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 7, 2007

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The Honorable George W. Bush
President
United States of America
The White House

Dear President Bush:

I commend the Administration's recent directive to the federal agencies to not fund earmarks that were not included in the bill text of the recent continuing resolution. However, no similar directive has been issued for the upcoming appropriations cycle.

With earmark requests due to the House Appropriations Committee by Friday, March 16, now would be an opportune time to release a statement giving similar guidance for fiscal year 2008. This is a necessary step to ensure that the appropriations process achieves true transparency.

Your statement during the State of the Union address that earmarks should be in the bill text, not hidden in committee or conference reports, was great. The only way to make it happen, however, is to instruct the agencies not to fund non-statutory earmarks.

Your favorable consideration of this request is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Flake".

JEFF FLAKE
Member of Congress