

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 688

Expressing opposition to Congressional spending on earmarks.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 22, 2022

Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations

RESOLUTION

Expressing opposition to Congressional spending on earmarks.

Whereas fiscal year 2022 marked the return of “congressionally directed spending” and “community project funding”, also known as “earmarks”, after a 12-year hiatus;

Whereas the return of earmarks marks the return of lawmakers using their powers to circumvent the rules of the Senate in order to direct taxpayer dollars to wasteful projects;

Whereas the 117th Congress has reinstated and embraced the wasteful practice of earmarking, as shown by the more than 3,000 requests for earmarks in the House of Representatives and the more than 8,000 requests for earmarks in the Senate for fiscal year 2022;

Whereas the reckless, 2,700 page, \$1,500,000,000,000 omnibus spending bill (the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022; Public Law 117–103; 136 Stat. 49) enacted in March 2022 appropriated billions of dollars to earmarks, even though the United States is more than \$30,000,000,000,000 in debt and experiencing the highest level of inflation for 40 years;

Whereas the massive, omnibus spending bill includes funding for earmarks including, \$2,500,000 to construct a museum annex in Vermont, \$605,000 to construct a New York City greenhouse, and \$3,000,000 to establish a Brooklyn gallery, in addition to earmark projects including bike trails in Vermont, derelict lobster pots in Connecticut, and a sidewalk for the road of a country club in Colorado;

Whereas former Senator Tom Coburn condemned the use of earmarks as a “gateway drug to overspending”, and former Senator John McCain called earmarks “the gateway drug to corruption and overspending in Washington”;

Whereas several former Members of Congress and lobbyists have been convicted of crimes related to earmarking;

Whereas it is crucial that Congress spend taxpayer dollars wisely and with the best return on investment, especially during times of historic inflation and Federal debt levels; and

Whereas Congress must stop this reckless Federal spending and corrupt political dealing, start paying down the debt of the United States, and get the United States back on track: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

1 (1) condemns the use of “congressionally di-
2 rected spending” and “community project funding”,
3 known as “earmarks”, to direct and appropriate tax-
4 payer dollars in any form;

5 (2) reaffirms the previous ban on the use of
6 earmarks, and affirms to restore the ban perma-
7 nently and immediately; and

8 (3) affirms the need for Congress to reign in
9 overspending to help curb the inflation crisis that is
10 crippling the families of the United States.

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