

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today announced his support for a one-year moratorium on congressional earmarks in the FY11 appropriations bills. Earmarks are federal funds designated for projects that are supposed to be for high public purpose.

“Americans are highly cynical of the spending process in Congress,” said Fortenberry. “Some approved congressional earmarks have been indefensible, while others have circumvented the rules or have been more appropriately the domain of the private sector or other divisions of government. While I believe lawmakers should have a role in directing funds to institutions serving a high public purpose, it is time for Congress to step back and, for the good of the country, fix this flawed system.”

Fortenberry has been a leader in earmark reform. Last year, Fortenberry re-introduced legislation, H.R 113, which would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a standardized process for auditing earmarks and include the results of audits conducted on government agencies and organizations in an annual review to Congress. This review would give Americans a better idea of how their tax dollars are being spent in the future.

Fortenberry is a member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

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