Rep. Jeff Fortenberry will have even more influence over the federal government's purse strings in the next Congress.

The Lincoln Republican who represents much of eastern Nebraska announced Thursday that he has been tapped to serve on the House Appropriations Committee. Even in an age of budget austerity and earmark moratoriums, members still seek out seats on that committee.

In many ways, money means the ability to influence policy.

"As the government spends, so the government does," Fortenberry told The World-Herald.

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