

When I was appointed to the Appropriations Committee in 2008, I committed to reform the earmark process – a process which, in my view, was broken. I immediately took steps to ensure my earmark request process set a new standard of transparency and responsibility.

It is Congress's constitutional responsibility to appropriate federal spending. I continue to believe a Member of Congress who is familiar with the needs and capabilities of his or her district is better equipped to determine the worthiness of federal projects in the region than an unelected Washington bureaucrat – provided those projects are awarded through an open and transparent process within specific and publicly defined standards.

However, recognizing the seriousness and long-term implications of our nation's ongoing fiscal challenges, I joined my Republican colleagues in instituting a one-year moratorium on all earmarks for fiscal year 2011. At the start of the 112th Congress, the new Republican Majority Leadership has extended this policy and will continue the ban on all earmarks in fiscal year 2012 appropriations bills.

I firmly believe this remains a necessary step to restore some measure of public confidence in a system perceived to be flawed and broken. As a result of this policy continuation, I will not be submitting requests for directed spending to the Committee on Appropriations for consideration in this Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jo Bonner". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jo Bonner
Member of Congress

Appropriations

For a list of Congressman Bonner's fiscal year 2009 funded appropriations requests, please [click here](#) 

For a list of Congressman Bonner's fiscal year 2010 funded appropriations projects, please [click here](#)