



Thomas A. Schatz
President

April 16, 2007

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

On March 29, Sen. Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) asked for unanimous consent to enact S. Res. 123 (the earmark disclosure rule) when the Senate was voting on H.R. 1591, the 2007 emergency supplemental appropriations bill. Unfortunately, Sen. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) objected and no further action was taken.

Sen. DeMint has notified the Senate that he will once again seek unanimous consent on Tuesday, April 17, to enact S. Res. 123. On behalf of the more than 1.2 million members and supporters of CCAGW, I ask that you enact S. Res. 123 without further delay.

The provisions in S. Res. 123 have already been adopted as an amendment to S. 1, the Lobbying Transparency and Accountability Act of 2007, it would seem to be a simple matter for the Senate to pass this measure immediately as a rule. The House separately adopted earmark transparency in its rules earlier this year. The Senate should do the same.

H.R. 1591 is loaded with pork-barrel projects and the fiscal 2008 appropriations bills are now being drafted in the Senate. Considering that the Democratic leadership promised to make Congressional earmark reform a priority, to provide more transparency when members load up spending bills with pet projects for their districts, and to end the culture of corruption, it is imperative that the earmark transparency rule be implemented.

Enacting S. Res. 123 will be a good test to see if the new leadership in Congress means what it says or if it will be business as usual. We urge you and your colleagues to refrain from objecting to Sen. DeMint's request.

Sincerely

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