

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1803

March 11, 2021

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
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Washington, DC 20515

Leader Kevin McCarthy
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Washington, DC 20515

Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

After a year of incredibly irresponsible deficit spending by Congress, our nation has reached a crossroads. We can either begin the process of addressing the unprecedented dangers of out-of-control spending from Washington, or continue to ignore this crucial issue. We must recognize that any discussion of restoring earmarks as a funding mechanism to ease the approval of selected projects is intellectually unsound while we continue to allow a broken appropriations system to endlessly burden American generations yet unborn with tens of trillions of dollars of debt.

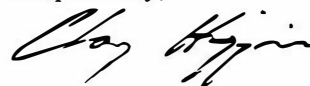
It is wrong for this body to contemplate bringing back earmarks in any form while our nation's future prosperity is in question. We should work together to rein in this spending and mitigate the damage that has already be done.

Before taking Congress down the road of accepting or even debating spending requests from members in the form of community-project funding (earmarks), we must make serious fiscal reforms. This includes:

1. Returning the House of Representatives appropriations process to regular order. That means presenting members of Congress an opportunity to vote on 12 separate appropriations bills each fiscal year. The use of minibus and omnibus spending packages is reflective of a broken, unrighteous budget process. Bundling incredibly disparate bills together forces representatives to violate core principles and ideological beliefs.
2. The House and Senate should pass a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, putting it before the Sovereign states for ratification. Regardless of their ideological beliefs, American families set budgets and control their spending on daily basis. As representatives of the American people, we should enact meaningful fiscal reforms. Congress should immediately make efforts to minimize or eliminate annual deficit spending and begin addressing our nation's out-of-control debt.

Only after taking these actions will the House and Senate have legitimate standing to debate a potential return to earmarks. Until then, we should not ease the ability of Washington insiders to access taxpayer funding for niche projects and spend the People's treasure without constraint.

Respectfully,



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress

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