



# U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

*PRESS RELEASE*

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Contact: (202) 224-3904

## **Senate Appropriations Committee Announces Earmark Reform Standards**

WASHINGTON, D.C.... The U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations will adopt an unprecedented policy of transparency and accountability beginning with the Fiscal 2008 appropriations cycle, Committee Chairman Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., announced Tuesday.

"The changes that we are making in the appropriations process will help to restore confidence in the Congress," Chairman Byrd explained. "We are ending business as usual in Washington, D.C. We will restore integrity to the process. We will increase accountability and openness, while we also will work to substantially reduce the number of earmarks in legislation."

Until S.1, the Ethics and Earmark Reform legislation, is signed into law, the Senate Appropriations Committee will follow these standards:

**All earmarks will be clearly identified in the committee bill and report.** The identification will include the requesting Senator, the amount of the earmark, the recipient of the earmark, and the purpose of the earmark. If there is no specifically intended recipient for an earmark, the intended location of the activity will be listed.

**An earmark shall be defined as it is in the Senate-passed Ethics and Earmark Reform legislation.** An earmark is a legislative provision or report language included primarily at the request of a Senator, Member of the House, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner, that provides, authorizes, or recommends a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or other spending authority for a contract, loan, loan guarantee, grant, loan authority, or other expenditure with or to an entity, or targeted to a specific State, locality, or Congressional district, other than through a statutory or administrative formula driven or competitive award process.

**The committee bill and report will be published on the Internet,** both through the committee site (<http://appropriations.senate.gov>) as well as on the Library of Congress website (<http://thomas.loc.gov>).

**Senators will be required to certify that neither they nor their spouses have a financial interest in any earmark.** Senators will need to submit a letter to the Appropriations Committee certifying that they have no financial interest in a project. Those letters will be available for public inspection. What constitutes a Senator's financial interest shall be determined by the guidelines of the Senate Ethics Committee and Senate Rule XXXVII.

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