



U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

PRESS RELEASE

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Appropriations Committee Set to Meet New Ethics Standards

WASHINGTON, D.C. . As the Senate Appropriations Committee starts work this week on the Fiscal 2008 funding bills, Committee Chairman Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., outlined the steps that have been taken to ensure unprecedented scrutiny and ethical standards.

As a committee and as a Senate, we are committed to ensuring the public's confidence in how these bills are written. We are moving forward with our bipartisan effort to ensure accountability and transparency in the appropriations process, Byrd said.

The committee's Internet site contains letters from every Senator who requests funding in appropriations bills. The letters certify that the Senator has no financial interest in the requests (<http://appropriations.senate.gov/senators.cfm>). In addition, the Appropriations Committee will clearly identify every earmark contained in this year's bills and reports, noting the name of the Senator requesting a funded project, the amount, the entity to receive the funding (or the location, if there is no specific entity), and the purpose of the funding. The bills and committee reports, which detail the funding legislation, will be available on-line through <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/approp/app08.html>. Links to the legislation will also be available from the committee site.

Our committee has the responsibility to plan for the future of our country. Jobs. Security. Education. Health care. The appropriations bills will focus on our families, investing in their future and building the foundation for a strong future, Byrd said. By ensuring greater transparency and sunshine in the process, we ensure greater confidence in our efforts by the American people.

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