

March 10, 2010

**To: All Members of the House Republican Conference**

**Re: Support for unilateral, self-imposed moratorium on earmarks**

Dear Member of the House Republican Conference,

**We, the undersigned chairpersons of the nation's Center-Right coalition meetings, write to urge you to support a self-imposed unilateral earmark moratorium.**

Our coalition representing the grassroots of the center-right movement—taxpayers, home schoolers, family groups, Second Amendment groups, business groups and individual businessmen and women, and other members of what comprises our country's center-right—is concerned that the brand of the party of Ronald Reagan, and fiscal conservatism, has been severely damaged.

Despite Democrat campaign promises to end the era of earmarks, spending bills for FY 10 still contain almost 10,000 pork projects worth roughly \$16 billion. **While that may only be the tip of the iceberg in terms of total spending figures, earmarks have become the broken windows of the federal budget.** The opaque earmarking process paired with a series of examples of corruption and self-aggrandizement has left taxpayers frustrated.

**In the wake of bridges to nowhere and indoor-rainforests, the grassroots are looking to the Republican Conference to reclaim the party brand.** America cannot wait for the Democrats to get on board with meaningful earmark reform. A self-imposed party-wide ban on earmarks for the remainder of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress would send a strong message to disenfranchised constituents around the country that fiscal discipline has returned to Washington, and would provide an opportunity to study and review the appropriations process to devise a process that allows for greater transparency, accountability and legitimacy.

**We urge you to support the effort to impose a unilateral party-wide earmark moratorium.**

Sincerely,



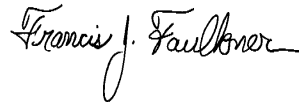
Michael Quinn Sullivan  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Texas



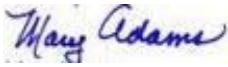
Brandon Dutcher  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Oklahoma



Richard Falknor,  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Maryland



Chip Faulkner  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Massachusetts



Mary Adams  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Maine



Edward R. Martin, Jr.  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Missouri



Chuck Muth  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Nevada



Don Racheter,  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Iowa



Greg Blankenship  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Illinois



Ben Cunningham  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Tennessee



Bill Felkner  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Rhode Island



Dick Rowland  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Hawaii (Oahu)



Henry Kriegel  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Montana



Mark Block  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Wisconsin



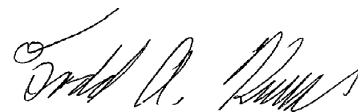
Bob Williams  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Washington



Deb Owens  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Ohio



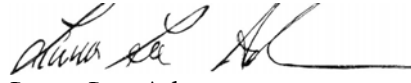
Jason Williams  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Oregon



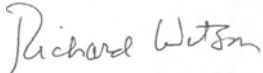
Todd Kruse  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Minnesota



Jon Caldara  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Colorado



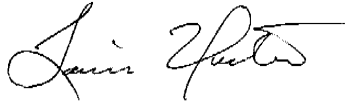
Laura Lee Adams  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Utah



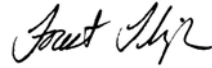
Rick Watson  
Co-Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Florida



Bruce Larsen  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
New Mexico (Santa Fe)



Louie Hunter  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Georgia



Forest Thigpen  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Mississippi



Kevin Kane  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Louisiana



Greg Blankenship  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Illinois (Springfield)



Mickey Barnett  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
New Mexico

Charlie Gerow  
Chair, Center-Right coalition  
Pennsylvania