



# AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist  
*President*

January 3, 2008

To: President George W. Bush  
Subject: Executive order striking earmarks

Dear President Bush,

As you consider the best course of action to take with the appropriation's omnibus passed by Congress last month, **I urge you to strike non-binding earmarks from the pork-laden bill.** Through executive order, you have the opportunity to send a strong signal to Congress that the era of earmarks must end.

**Your steps to curtail the spending requests are commendable,** and must go beyond your instructing Budget Director Jim Nussle to review options for dealing with the wasteful spending in the omnibus bill. The Congressional Research Service (CRS) examined legal options and concluded that you have the ability to formally direct all Federal agencies to ignore the non-legislative earmarks hidden in committee reports and statements of managers. **Such an executive order would set a valuable precedent for a future of increased fiscal responsibility.**

Despite a Democrat majority promise to halve the number of earmarks, spending bills for FY 2008 contain about \$20 billion in earmarks. It is time to rein in government spending, starting with the broken windows of the federal budget: earmarks.

**On behalf of American taxpayers, I urge you to issue an executive order directing Federal agencies to disregard any earmarks that are not explicitly included in the legislative text of the Fiscal Year 2008 Omnibus Spending Bill and put an end to the earmark spree underway in Congress.**

Onward,

Grover Norquist

CC: Director Jim Nussle, media

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