

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. RES. _____

Expressing opposition to congressional spending on earmarks.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. JOHNSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on

RESOLUTION

Expressing opposition to congressional spending on
earmarks.

Whereas fiscal year 2022 marked the return of “congression-ally directed spending” and “community project fund-ing”, also known as “earmarks”, after a 12-year hiatus;

Whereas the return of earmarks marked the return of law-makers using their powers to circumvent the rules of the Senate in order to direct taxpayer dollars to wasteful projects;

Whereas, while Congress has the power of the purse, it must be prescriptive and effective in funding programs, projects, and activities of the Federal Government, which is now more than \$38,000,000,000,000 in debt, rather than focus on funding earmarks that are wasteful in nature;

Whereas Congress has dramatically increased deficit spending, overseeing more than \$12,500,000,000,000 in deficit spending since 2020;

Whereas interest payments on the United States national debt have exceeded \$1,000,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas the Congressional Budget Office projects that between 2025 and 2055, publicly held debt by the United States will increase by \$108,100,000,000,000, from \$30,100,000,000,000 to \$138,200,000,000,000;

Whereas Senate Republicans adopted a 2-year moratorium on earmarks in 2010;

Whereas Senate Republicans voted favorably for a permanent ban on earmarks in 2019 and reaffirmed that ban in 2021;

Whereas former Senator Tom Coburn condemned the use of earmarks as a “gateway drug to overspending” and former Senator John McCain called earmarks “the gateway drug to corruption and overspending in Washington”;

Whereas several former Members of Congress and lobbyists have been convicted of crimes related to earmarking;

Whereas it is crucial that Congress spend taxpayer dollars wisely and with the best return on investment; and

Whereas Congress must stop this reckless Federal spending and corrupt political dealing, start paying down the debt of the United States, and get the United States back on track: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) condemns the use of “congressionally di-
3 rected spending” and “community project funding”,

1 known as “earmarks”, to direct and appropriate tax-
2 payer dollars in any form;

3 (2) reaffirms the previous ban on the use of
4 earmarks and affirms to restore the ban perma-
5 nently and immediately; and

6 (3) affirms the need for Congress to reign in
7 overspending to help curb the inflation crisis that is
8 crippling the families of the United States.