

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Watching waste

November 30, 2006

As the founder of the Washington Waste Watchers, I was pleased to see Wednesday's editorial, "Curb abuses," that emphasized the need for reform of the earmark process. The Sentinel did an excellent job outlining the current earmark process while accurately explaining the shortcomings in the proposal put forth by incoming House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

The bottom line is that earmarks are the culture of corruption in Washington, and Congress needs to dramatically transform the process to eliminate the troubling secrecy in the system.

As your editorial highlighted, earmarks are not just limited to appropriations bills. Therefore, it is critical that true reform incorporates all legislation.

The American people have a right to know where their hard-earned dollars are being spent and hold lawmakers accountable for their spending proposals.

Transparency in the earmark process will force lawmakers to explain to taxpayers why their money is flushed down the toilet with projects like: \$13.5 million for a group that finances the World Toilet Summit and \$1 million for the Waterfree Urinal Conservation Initiative.

I look forward to being part of that reform.

TOM FEENEY

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