



Office of Congressman Jeff Flake

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, February 5, 2003

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Congressman Flake to Appropriators: If You're Going to Add Earmarks, Do It in the Light of Day

Flake Encourages OMB to Continue Fighting Against Pork

Mesa, Arizona - Congressman Jeff Flake, who represents the state's Sixth District, today encouraged Office of Management and Budget Director Mitch Daniels to continue fighting against the practice adding earmarks to appropriations bills.

"If appropriators want to add earmarks to spending bills, they ought to do it in the bill itself, and not in the committee and conference reports that accompany the bill," said Flake. **"If Congress has the right to add earmarks, that right should come with responsibility."**

"Let's have a debate on the validity of each earmark. I believe that these earmarks are added to committee and conference reports where they can't be touched because appropriators know that these projects are nothing more than pork."

"Congress voted to give the president a line-item veto; it ought to give its own members the same ability."

Last year, Congressman Flake offered an amendment to each appropriations bill that would require any earmarks to be included in the bill rather than the committee or conference report. The earmarks would then be subject to debate and amendments. He plans to offer the same amendment during this year's appropriation process.

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