

RON LEWIS
SECOND DISTRICT, KENTUCKY

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
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HOUSE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE
2418 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
202-225-3501

DISTRICT OFFICES:
1690 RING ROAD
SUITE 260
ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY 42701
270-765-4360

1001 CENTER STREET
SUITE 300
BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42101
270-842-9895

1100 WALNUT STREET
SUITE P15B
OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY 42301
270-688-8858

TOLL FREE 1-800-367-6676

E-Mail: ron.lewis@mail.house.gov

Website: www.house.gov/ronlewis

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Moratorium on Earmarks: Common Sense in Funding Reconstruction

Dear Colleague,

I am heartened by the generous response millions of Americans have shown in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Each day, we witness further evidence that the effects of this disaster are more profound and far-reaching than anything this nation has ever encountered.

We enter an immense rebuilding effort at a time when Congress is facing massive budget constraints. An already complex fiscal situation has now been amplified, and as legislators we are faced with the task of navigating unprecedented relief and reconstruction spending.

It is easy to identify broad revenue fixes and far-reaching program cuts that have little direct impact on our own districts. While this discussion is necessary and appropriate, this critical fiscal situation requires more: as Members of Congress, we must also be willing to consider sacrifices close to home.

I have included on reverse a letter to the Appropriations Committee requesting a one-year moratorium on all non-defense appropriations earmarks for Fiscal Year 2006. I ask that you join me in taking this small but necessary step to ensure that we have the financial resources to again make the Gulf Coast region whole. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the letter, please contact Alison Friesen at x53501.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Lewis".

RON LEWIS
Member of Congress