

AMERICANS FOR PROSPERITY®

March 9, 2010

Dear Senator Jim DeMint,

On behalf of more than 975,000 Americans for Prosperity activists in all 50 states, including our 30 chapter and affiliate states, I am proud to join you in support of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's effort to enact a ban on congressional earmarks.

Americans for Prosperity has long believed that pork barrel politics are one of the most damaging aspects of the federal government. Special deals, corrupt vote buying and *quid pro quo* legislation destroy our citizens' faith in their government, and rightly so.

In fact, we have just released a study that shows a clear link between lawmakers garnering earmarks and getting reelected. Politicians are literally buying themselves political office using our money. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like a copy of our results.

The American people are understandably fed up with out of control congressional earmarks, and the time has long since passed to do something about it. Both parties have been bad on this issue and both need to reform their behavior.

We recognize that you have long been a champion on this issue and we applaud you for reaching out to join Speaker Pelosi in her newfound interest in protecting the American taxpayer. I urge your colleagues—on both sides of the aisle—to join you and Speaker Pelosi in foregoing earmarks.

Sincerely,



James Valvo
Government Affairs Manager
Americans for Prosperity

CC:

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid
U.S. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell
U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House Minority Leader John Boehner

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) is a nationwide organization of citizen leaders committed to advancing every individual's right to economic freedom and opportunity. AFP believes reducing the size and scope of government is the best way to safeguard individual productivity and prosperity for all Americans. AFP educates and engages citizens in support of restraining state and federal government growth, and returning government to its constitutional limits. AFP has more than 975,000 members, including members in all 50 states, and 30 state chapters and affiliates. More than 60,000 Americans in all 50 states have made a financial investment in AFP or AFP Foundation. For more information, visit www.americansforprosperity.org