



Thomas A. Schatz  
President

October 17, 2007

U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

While you are considering H.R. 3043, the fiscal 2008 Labor-HHS-Education and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) will offer three amendments. On behalf of the more than 1.2 million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I ask that you support these amendments:

S. Amdt. 3321 will remove \$1 million from a wasteful earmark targeted to the Bethel Performing Arts Center Museum, which includes a tribute to the 1969 Woodstock Festival, and transfer it to the Maternal and Child Health block grant program.

S. Amdt. 3322 will remove \$1,050,000 for three wasteful earmarks: \$900,000 for the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation in Austin, Texas, for the Presidential timeline project; \$100,000 for the ECHO Center in Burlington, Vermont for education regarding the Lake Champlain Quadracentennial; and \$150,000 for the Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia to expand its outreach programs and transfer these funds to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act special education programs.

S. Amdt. 3323 will require a report card on the proficiency of Department of Education programs and spending. It will increase transparency and accountability at the department, in particular, the costs of administering and the effectiveness of earmarks.

H.R. 3043 contains more than 800 earmarks that will cost taxpayers over \$400 million. Many have little to do with the missions and the priorities at the various departments funded in this appropriations bill. A June 2007 CBS poll found that 67 percent of adults believe that it is not acceptable for members of Congress to add earmarks to legislation for spending projects in their home districts. Supporting these amendments would demonstrate that senators respect their opinion. All votes on these amendments and H.R. 3043 will be among those considered in CCAGW's *2007 Congressional Ratings*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Schatz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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