



Thomas A. Schatz  
President

January 16, 2007

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the more than 1.2 million members and supporters of the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste (CCAGW), I urge you to support four amendments to S. 1, the Legislative Transparency and Accountability Act of 2007, which will be offered by Senator Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) that will further reform the earmarking process.

The amendments are as follows:

- S. Amdt. 48: Requires that all recipients of federal earmarks, grants, subgrants, and contracts disclose amounts spent on lobbying with an itemized description of lobbying activities;
- S. Amdt. 49: Requires that all earmark requests from a member to a committee be posted online;
- S. Amdt. 50: Requires public disclosure of lobbyist gifts and travel; and
- S. Amdt. 51: Prohibits senators from requesting earmarks that financially benefit a senator or an immediate family member, or the senator's staff.

Justice Louis Brandeis once stated, "Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants; electric light the most efficient policeman." By exposing the earmarking process to the sunlight, taxpayers will understand how earmarks are placed in legislation and will be able to judge if they are worth the hard-earned tax dollars that they provide. Please support these amendments. All votes on these amendments will be among those considered for *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.