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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20515-6015

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Dear Colleague,

One of the questions I am most frequently asked by Democrats and Republicans is whether Congress will return to the practice of earmarking. I am a strong proponent of Congressionally-directed spending and believe it is imperative that Congress exercise its constitutional responsibility in determining how and where taxpayer dollars that we appropriate are spent.

Unfortunately, there is currently not the necessary bipartisan, bicameral agreement to allow the Appropriations Committee to earmark. For that reason, I do not expect Fiscal Year 2020 House spending bills to include Congressionally-directed spending.

Over the coming months, Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate must discuss the issue of earmarks in our respective caucuses and conferences to determine member preferences, solicit ideas to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely, and when applicable, change rules to permit members to request earmarks.

I would be happy to hear your thoughts on the matter of earmarks and encourage Members over the coming months to submit ideas to houseappropriations.submissions@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,



Nita M. Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations