

(Washington, DC) - Congressman Herger today applauded an agreement requiring that earmarks--direct spending for specific projects--be made public before the House votes on appropriations measures in which earmarks are prevalent. Herger made the following comment regarding the agreement:

"Increasing transparency and accountability in the earmarking process will ensure that the American people know how their representatives are spending their hard-earned money," Herger stated. "The new majority wanted members of the House to pass appropriations measures with massive earmark slush funds--without knowing what projects taxpayer money would go towards. All earmarks should be allowed to undergo intense public scrutiny. Keeping earmarks in the dark would have been an unacceptable abuse of this process.

"Fortunately, fiscally responsible members of the House stood against this proposal and successfully defeated it. I'm very pleased the minority's unrelenting pressure required the Democratic leadership to increase sunshine and accountability in the earmarking process. The agreement ensures that representatives will face scrutiny for every earmark project they support. It is a major victory for American taxpayers," concluded Herger.