



# washington dc update

## House Republicans Vote to Request No Earmarks for FY11

March 11, 2010

### Potential National Monuments Designation causes Alarm

Lead by Chairman Ron Bishop (R-UT), the Western Caucus has expressed concerns in a letter to Secretary Salazar requesting all documents pertinent to the potential designation of 14 new Monuments, covering some 13 million acres in 11 Western States. This is another example of the potential for Executive Branch's to short-circuit Congress and State input, with possible implications for future energy and water resources development.

For more see the following:

<http://robbishop.house.gov/WesternCaucus/Issues.aspx#mon>

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXKh\\_YF5A8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXKh_YF5A8)

[http://robbishop.house.gov/UploadedFiles/All\\_US\\_Public\\_Lands.jpg](http://robbishop.house.gov/UploadedFiles/All_US_Public_Lands.jpg)

Earlier today, the House Republican Conference, which is the policy body for Republicans in that body, adopted the following resolution:

“Resolved that it is the policy of the Republican Conference that no Member shall request a congressional earmark, limited tax benefit, or limited tariff benefit, as such terms are used in clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House for the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress.”

As we understand it, this ban also extends to appropriation and authorization bills.

To put this in context, yesterday House Democrats announced that they had banned FY11 earmarks for “for profit” recipients. The action of House Republicans this morning was a sort of “upping the ante” on the issue. So far, Senate Appropriators have expressed no interest in either the House Democrat or Republican earmark policies.

So where things stand today, with FY11 House Appropriations Member requests due next Friday and Senate Member request deadlines due the following week is this:

- House Democrats say “yes” to earmarks for non-profit entities such as local governments, educational entities, and transportation.
- House Republicans say “no” to all requests for FY11.
- So far Senate Democrats say they will proceed with earmarks the way they were handled in FY10.

So, around and around and around it goes, and where it stops, nobody knows. It’s a long time between mid-March and the time late this year when the FY11 Appropriations cycle will probably be completed. As for a ban on all earmarks in authorizing bills, it’s unlikely that any big measures such as the Highway Bill, WRDA, and others will be acted upon in this Congress. All we can say is that yesterday, the line of cabs disgorging passengers seeking Congressional assistance stretched for two city blocks to the West of the Rayburn House office building.

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