

money, my money.” Therein lies the problem, Mr. President. Too many Members of Congress view taxpayers, funds as their own. They feel free to spend it as they see fit, with no oversight and, often, no shame. Look at some of the things we’ve funded over the years: \$225,000 for an Historic Wagon Museum in Utah, \$1 million for a DNA study of bears in Montana, \$200,000 for the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Ohio, \$220,000 for blueberry research at the University of Maine, \$3 million for an animal waste management research facility in Kentucky, \$170,000 for blackbird management in Kansas, \$196,000 for geese control in New York, \$50,000 for feral hog control in Missouri, \$90,000 for the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas, \$200,000 for an American White Pelican survey, \$6 million for sugarcane growers in Hawaii, \$13 million for a ewe lamb retention program, \$500,000 to study flight attendant fatigue, \$200,000 for a deer avoidance system in Pennsylvania and New York, \$3 million for the production of a documentary about Alaska, \$1 million for a waterless urinal initiative, \$500,000 for a Teapot museum in North Carolina, \$1.1 million to research the use of Alaskan salmon in baby food, \$25 million for a fish hatchery in Montana, \$37 million over four years to the Alaska Fisheries Marketing Board to “promote and develop fishery products and research pertaining to American fisheries.” So how exactly does this Board spend the money Congress so generously earmarks every year? Well, they spent \$500,000 of it to paint a giant salmon on the side of an Alaska Airlines 747—and nicknamed it the “Salmon Forty Salmon.”

Unfortunately, I could go on and on with examples of wasteful earmarks that have been approved by Congress. And we wonder why our approval rating stands at 20 percent.

The corruption which stems from the practice of earmarking has resulted in current and former Members of both the House and Senate either under investigation, under indictment, or in prison. Let’s be clear—it wasn’t inadequate lobbyist disclosure requirements which led Duke Cunningham to violate his oath of office and take \$2.5 million in bribes in exchange for doling out \$70-\$80 million of the taxpayer’s funds to a defense contractor. It was his ability to freely earmark taxpayer funds without question.

We cannot allow this to continue. Now is the time to put a stop to this corrupt practice. The bill we are introducing today seeks to reform the current system by empowering all Members with a tool to rid appropriations bills of unauthorized funds, pork barrel projects, and legislative policy riders and to provide greater public disclosure of the legislative process.

We, as Members, owe it to the American people to conduct ourselves in a

way that reinforces, rather than diminishes, the public’s faith and confidence in Congress. An informed citizenry is essential to a thriving democracy. A democratic government operates best in the disinfecting light of the public eye. By seriously addressing the corrupting influence of earmarks, we will allow Members to legislate with the imperative that our Government must be free from corrupting influences, both real and perceived. We must act now to ensure that the erosion we see today in the public’s confidence in Congress does not become a collapse of confidence. We can, and we must, end the practice of earmarking.

Again, I thank my friend and colleague from Wisconsin for his strong leadership on this issue, and I encourage the Senate act quickly to approve this measure.

By Mr. REID:

S.J. Res. 3. A joint resolution ensuring that the compensation and other emoluments attached to the office of Secretary of the Interior are those which were in effect on January 1, 2005; considered and passed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the joint resolution be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the joint resolution was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S.J. RES. 3

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. COMPENSATION AND OTHER EMOLUMENTS ATTACHED TO THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The compensation and other emoluments attached to the office of Secretary of the Interior shall be those in effect January 1, 2005, notwithstanding any increase in such compensation or emoluments after that date under any provision of law, or provision which has the force and effect of law, that is enacted or becomes effective during the period beginning at noon of January 3, 2005, and ending at noon of January 3, 2011.

(b) CIVIL ACTION AND APPEAL.—

(1) JURISDICTION.—Any person aggrieved by an action of the Secretary of the Interior may bring a civil action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia to contest the constitutionality of the appointment and continuance in office of the Secretary of the Interior on the ground that such appointment and continuance in office is in violation of article I, section 6, clause 2, of the Constitution. The United States District Court for the District of Columbia shall have exclusive jurisdiction over such a civil action, without regard to the sum or value of the matter in controversy.

(2) THREE JUDGE PANEL.—Any claim challenging the constitutionality of the appointment and continuance in office of the Secretary of the Interior on the ground that such appointment and continuance in office is in violation of article I, section 6, clause 2, of the Constitution, in an action brought under paragraph (1) shall be heard and determined by a panel of three judges in accordance with section 2284 of title 28, United

States Code. It shall be the duty of the district court to advance on the docket and to expedite the disposition of any matter brought under this subsection.

(3) APPEAL.—

(A) DIRECT APPEAL TO SUPREME COURT.—An appeal may be taken directly to the Supreme Court of the United States from any interlocutory or final judgment, decree, or order upon the validity of the appointment and continuance in office of the Secretary of the Interior under article I, section 6, clause 2, of the Constitution, entered in any action brought under this subsection. Any such appeal shall be taken by a notice of appeal filed within 20 days after such judgment, decree, or order is entered.

(B) JURISDICTION.—The Supreme Court shall, if it has not previously ruled on the question presented by an appeal taken under subparagraph (A), accept jurisdiction over the appeal, advance the appeal on the docket, and expedite the appeal.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This joint resolution shall take effect at 12:00 p.m. on January 20, 2009.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 1—INFORMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT A QUORUM OF EACH HOUSE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 1

Resolved, That a committee consisting of two Senators be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each House is assembled and that the Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

SENATE RESOLUTION 2—INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A QUORUM OF THE SENATE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 2

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

SENATE RESOLUTION 3—FIXING THE HOUR OF DAILY MEETING OF THE SENATE

Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. MCCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 3

Resolved, That the daily meeting of the Senate be 12 o’clock meridian unless otherwise ordered.