

Castle Votes to Pass Pay-As-You-Go Rules for Spending and Taxes, Implement Comprehensive Earmark Reform -- January 5, 2007

Washington, D.C. -- Delaware Congressman Mike Castle today supported efforts to establish pay-as-you-go rules for both spending and taxes and to bring more transparency to the so-called earmark process as part of the Rules Package for the 110th Congress.

Pay-as-you-go provisions will do the following:

- Require that increases in direct spending or reductions in revenue(tax relief) must be offset, either by cuts in direct spending or increases in revenue

Earmark Provisions require that any earmark or district-specific project:

- List the name of the member, delegate or resident commissioner;
- Provides, in the case of an earmark, the name and address of the intended beneficiary, or the address of the intended location of an activity;
- Identifies, for limited tax or tariff benefits, the individual or entities reasonably anticipated to benefit, to the extent known by the member, delegate, or resident commissioner;
- Describes the purpose of the earmark or limited tax or tariff benefit; and
- Certifies that the member, delegate or resident commissioner, as well as his or her spouse, has no financial interest in the earmark or limited tax or trade benefit.

"One of the greatest challenges this nation faces is the federal deficit -- it is a concern of nearly every constituent I speak with. The provisions in this Rules package to institute pay-as-you-go for spending and tax relief and to bring more transparency to the earmark process will hopefully reign in wasteful and unnecessary spending. Just as importantly, it will force Congress to make thoughtful and thorough spending decisions throughout the appropriations process. We must not wait any longer to prioritize our spending so we may find the savings that can and should be implemented throughout the entire budget. In order for Congress to gain back the trust of the American people, we must explain the steps we are taking with every taxpayer dollar and how it will affect the budget," Castle said.

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