

CASTLE PURSUES FUNDING FOR FEDERAL PROJECTS -- MARCH 21, 2008

Washington, DC-- Congressman Michael N. Castle (R-DE) has clearly indicated that in lieu of a Congressional moratorium on appropriations projects or "earmarks," he will pursue federal funding for projects in Delaware.

Rep Castle said, "A handful of abuses have lead to negative overtones in the Congressional process of identifying projects at home eligible for federal funding. These transgressions are serious and it may be in the best interest of Congress to enter into a moratorium until we can all operate under the high standards and transparent process that I have in my own office. However, until there is a moratorium on earmarks in Congress, I will not sacrifice the many meritorious projects in Delaware that the delegation has worked to fund."

Today he announced the details of his office policy for submitting appropriations project requests and released a full list of the submissions he made to the House Appropriations Committee.

Rep. Castle said, "My office follows specific standards for requesting federal funding for projects in Delaware. While many of these policies are consistent with what I have done in the past, I formalized the process this year to improve public transparency."

Rep. Castle's office procedure is as follows:

As always, requests will only be made in the interests of Delawareans.

Applicants were made aware that their requests would be made public.

Before the House debates a bill in which any of these projects are included, I will submit details of the project into the Congressional Record for review.

Many entities require matching funds.

No taxpayer money will be used to fund projects named after sitting lawmakers.

No hiding or "airdropping" earmarks into bills at the last minute.

I will not request funds for a project through a "front" organization or in any way attempt to mask the true recipients.

In the following weeks and months, appropriations bills will be drafted and sent to the full House of Representatives for consideration. The following list provides the entity, location, description, and amount requested for deliberation of the House Appropriations Committee. Submission for consideration means that Rep. Castle is recommending that the Committee try to match these projects with existing accounts within federal appropriations bills.

Rep. Castle said, "My staff and I work to match the needs of entities in Delaware with accounts established by federal law. Some typical accounts include transportation, health care, economic development, national defense, homeland security, agriculture, community arts, and education."

For the full list of submissions, please go to www.castle.house.gov. Then click News/Immediate Releases and find the list under March, 2008.

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