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Committee on Rules  
U.S. House of Representatives  
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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

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December 6, 2007

The Honorable David R. Obey, Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-218, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

Today the Committee on Rules reported a "martial law" rule to provide for the same day consideration of an omnibus appropriations vehicle. That measure also includes a provision giving you the option of inserting extraneous explanatory material in the Congressional Record for appropriations measures for the remainder of this session.

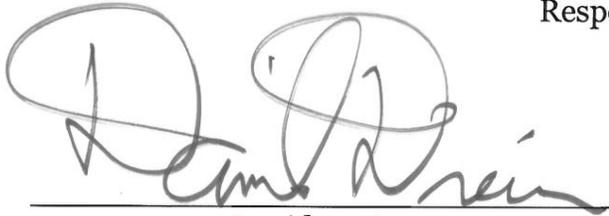
During the markup of that measure, we offered an amendment to the rule to *require* that you provide the list of earmarks required by clause 9 of rule XXI for the omnibus appropriations measure. Unfortunately, that amendment to the rule was rejected along partisan lines.

Mr. Chairman, we know that you have made an effort during this Congress to provide transparency for earmarks contained in bills coming through your committee. However, because the omnibus appropriations bill will be considered as a Senate amendment to a House bill, it falls squarely within one of the loopholes of the earmark rule and the Rules of the House will not require any disclosure of earmarks that will be contained therein. As you were the presiding officer over the motion to concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 6, the energy bill, you are well aware that no list of earmarks was provided for that measure because it fell within the same loophole.

We respectfully request that you adhere not just to the letter of clause 9 of rule XXI, but to its spirit as well and provide the Rules Committee and the House with a list of earmarks contained in the omnibus appropriations bill prior to consideration by the Rules Committee. That kind of disclosure will be in the best interest of the House, its Members, and the Nation.

We appreciate your willingness to consider our request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David Dreier", written above a horizontal line.

David Dreier

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lincoln Diaz-Balart", written above a horizontal line.

Lincoln Diaz-Balart

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Doc Hastings", written above a horizontal line.

Doc Hastings

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pete Sessions", written above a horizontal line.

Pete Sessions