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Earmarks for Campaign Cash?

Murtha, House Defense Appropriations Panel Members

Channeled Millions in Earmarks to Campaign Contributors in 2008

Rep. John Murtha (D-PA) has received considerable press over the years for adding so-called earmarks to defense spending bills that benefit large campaign contributors and send no-bid contracts back to his district in Pennsylvania, many of questionable value to the taxpayer. A review of campaign finance reports, however, shows that the practice of inserting earmarks on behalf of campaign contributors is far more widespread on Rep. Murtha's appropriations subcommittee alone.

The 18 members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, which Rep. Murtha chairs, inserted more than \$355 million in earmarks into the 2008 defense spending bill on behalf of their campaign contributors. Those contributors, according to campaign disclosure reports, donated a total of \$1.3 million to the members who sponsored the earmarks.

Rep. Murtha inserted a total of \$166.5 million worth of earmarks in last year's defense appropriations bill, \$73.6 million of which went to some of his biggest contributors. The recipients of those earmarks donated a total of \$313,150 to Rep. Murtha's reelection campaign or his leadership PAC during the 2008 election.

"Jack Murtha is the poster boy for pay-to-play politics," said Bob Edgar, president of Common Cause, which has asked the House Ethics Committee to investigate Rep. Murtha and two of his colleagues, Rep. James Moran (D-VA) and Rep. Peter Visclosky (D-IN), on the defense appropriations panel for allegedly steering in exchange for hefty campaign contributions millions of dollars worth of earmarks to a now-defunct lobbying firm staffed by former Murtha aides. "But we must end the widespread practice of what appears to be trading earmarks for campaign cash. This game distorts our nation's spending priorities and erodes public trust in our government."

Earmarks to Campaign Contributors, 2008 Defense Spending Bill
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense

Member	Earmarks	2008 Contributions
Murtha, John (D-PA)	\$73,600,000	\$313,150
Moran, James (D-VA)	\$30,000,000	\$264,400
Visclosky, Peter (D-IN)	\$27,000,000	\$211,150
Young, C.W. Bill (R-FL)	\$58,100,000	\$113,500
Tiahrt, Todd (R-KS)	\$20,800,000	\$80,640
Lewis, Jerry (R-CA)	\$28,000,000	\$75,800
Frelinghuysen, Rodney (R-NJ)	\$23,000,000	\$61,200
Dicks, Norman (D-WA)	\$20,000,000	\$50,900
Rothman, Steven (D-NJ)	\$17,000,000	\$44,450
Kingston, Jack (R-GA)	\$14,000,000	\$39,700
Kaptur, Marcy (D-OH)	\$19,000,000	\$33,600
Bishop, Sanford (D-GA)	\$10,000,000	\$16,900
Rogers, Harold (R-KY)	\$7,000,000	\$16,000
Boyd, Allen (D-FL)	\$3,000,000	\$13,000
Hinchey, Maurice (D-NY)	\$5,000,000	\$10,000
Total	\$355,500,000	\$1,344,390

Source: Taxpayers for Common Sense; Center for Responsive Politics

Note: 2008 Contributions include donations to the candidate and his or her leadership PAC during the 2007 - 2008 election cycle. The organizations themselves did not donate; the money came from the organization's PAC, its individual members or employees or owners, and those individuals' immediate families. Organization totals include subsidiaries and affiliates. Some earmarks are sponsored by more than one member.

Rep. Murtha has received more attention than other committee members in part because of questions about the efficacy of the work he has funded. Among the organizations to receive funding from Rep. Murtha is Concurrent Technologies, a tax-exempt corporation that manages the National Defense Center for Environmental Excellence (NDCEE). The NDCEE was started with a \$5 million earmark from Rep. Murtha in 1991 and has received in excess of \$670 million in federal contracts since then to promote antipollution technologies for the military. In 2007, the *Washington Post* conducted an investigation of the NDCEE and found that little of the center's work had been used by the Defense Department. Rep. Murtha inserted another \$10 million in earmarks for Concurrent Technologies in last year's defense bill, which donated \$11,300 to his reelection campaign and \$1,000 to his leadership PAC last election.

Between now and October, Congress will authorize and ultimately appropriate money for the 2010 defense budget, for which the Obama Administration has requested \$534 billion. With the federal deficit skyrocketing, the economy ailing and questions raised about some major weapons programs, both the President and the Defense Secretary have signaled a willingness to reduce Pentagon spending. But if history is any guide, the Obama Administration will fail in its

effort to reform the defense budget by eliminating wasteful programs and killing individual weapons systems the military no longer needs, and funding for these programs will be reinserted into the military appropriations bill later this year.

This is just another example of the conflicts of interest that arise from our corrupting campaign finance system that pressures elected officials and candidates to constantly raise large sums of money, often from the special interests who want the most in return.

Questions have been raised about whether Rep. Murtha has inserted earmarks into spending bills *in exchange for* campaign contributions, a violation of federal law. Common Cause has joined others in calling on the House Ethics Committee and the Office of Congressional Ethics to investigate. At the same time, Rep. Murtha is obviously not the only member of Congress who has inserted earmarks for companies that donated to his reelection campaign.

The real answer is to change the way America pays for its elections with the passage of the Fair Elections Now Act, which would allow candidates to swear off big money and run for office on a blend of small donations and public funds. That bill (HR 1826, S. 752) is sponsored in the Senate by Assistant Majority Leader Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Sen. Arlen Specter (D-PA) and in the House by Rep. John Larson (D-CT) and Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC).

Appendix 1 gives a complete company-by-company breakdown of the earmark-campaign cash nexus for each member of the Defense Subcommittee for 2008.

Appendix 1. Earmarks to Campaign Contributors, 2008 Defense Spending Bill
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense

Member	Company	Earmarks	2008 Contributions
Bishop, Sanford (D-GA)	Dimensions International	\$7,500,000	\$7,900
Bishop, Sanford (D-GA)	Amethyst Technologies LLC	\$1,000,000	\$4,500
Bishop, Sanford (D-GA)	Concurrent Technologies Corporation	\$1,500,000	\$4,500
Boyd, Allen (D-FL)	General Dynamics	\$3,000,000	\$13,000
Dicks, Norman (D-WA)	Raytheon Company	\$6,000,000	\$12,500
Dicks, Norman (D-WA)	Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)	\$2,500,000	\$12,500
Dicks, Norman (D-WA)	Concurrent Technologies Corporation	\$4,000,000	\$7,200
Dicks, Norman (D-WA)	Mobilisa Inc.	\$5,000,000	\$6,400
Dicks, Norman (D-WA)	Advanced Acoustic Concepts	\$1,500,000	\$6,300
Dicks, Norman (D-WA)	Outdoor Research	\$1,000,000	\$6,000
Frelinghuysen, Rodney (R-NJ)	DRS, Inc.	\$6,000,000	\$27,100
Frelinghuysen, Rodney (R-NJ)	L-3 Communications	\$2,000,000	\$7,600
Frelinghuysen, Rodney (R-NJ)	Textron Corporation	\$1,000,000	\$7,600
Frelinghuysen, Rodney (R-NJ)	Marotta Scientific Controls, Inc.	\$1,000,000	\$6,550
Frelinghuysen, Rodney (R-NJ)	Stevens Institute of Technology	\$8,000,000	\$5,750
Frelinghuysen, Rodney (R-NJ)	Impact Instrumentation	\$3,000,000	\$4,600
Frelinghuysen, Rodney (R-NJ)	II-VI Corporation	\$2,000,000	\$2,000
Hinchey, Maurice (D-NY)	BAE Systems	\$2,000,000	\$9,000
Hinchey, Maurice (D-NY)	Rockwell Collins	\$3,000,000	\$1,000
Kaptur, Marcy (D-OH)	American Systems Corporation	\$5,000,000	\$10,000
Kaptur, Marcy (D-OH)	ACT I LLC	\$3,000,000	\$7,000
Kaptur, Marcy (D-OH)	American Engineering and Manufacturing	\$1,000,000	\$5,300
Kaptur, Marcy (D-OH)	Teledyne Continental Motors, Inc	\$2,000,000	\$4,000
Kaptur, Marcy (D-OH)	Imaging System Technology	\$2,000,000	\$2,300
Kaptur, Marcy (D-OH)	University Hospitals of Cleveland	\$3,500,000	\$2,300
Kaptur, Marcy (D-OH)	Western DataCom	\$1,500,000	\$1,700
Kaptur, Marcy (D-OH)	Sierra Lobo, Inc.	\$1,000,000	\$1,000
Kingston, Jack (R-GA)	Northrop Grumman Amherst Systems; Northrop Grumman Corp	\$5,000,000	\$10,000
Kingston, Jack (R-GA)	Star Technologies	\$500,000	\$9,400
Kingston, Jack (R-GA)	Prologic, Inc.	\$3,000,000	\$8,000
Kingston, Jack (R-GA)	Science Research Corporation	\$1,500,000	\$7,000
Kingston, Jack (R-GA)	BAE Systems	\$2,000,000	\$3,000
Kingston, Jack (R-GA)	Engineering and Software System Solutions, Inc. (ES3)	\$2,000,000	\$2,300
Lewis, Jerry (R-CA)	General Atomics	\$5,000,000	\$20,000
Lewis, Jerry (R-CA)	Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)	\$4,000,000	\$20,000

Member	Company	Earmarks	2008 Contributions
Lewis, Jerry (R-CA)	Northrop Grumman	\$6,000,000	\$13,000
Lewis, Jerry (R-CA)	Trident	\$8,000,000	\$12,300
Lewis, Jerry (R-CA)	L-3 Communications	\$5,000,000	\$10,500
Moran, James (D-VA)	Progeny Systems Corporation	\$2,000,000	\$38,000
Moran, James (D-VA)	ManTech International	\$3,000,000	\$31,200
Moran, James (D-VA)	Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)	\$2,000,000	\$25,300
Moran, James (D-VA)	Prologis, Inc.	\$2,000,000	\$25,000
Moran, James (D-VA)	BriarTek Inc.	\$2,000,000	\$23,600
Moran, James (D-VA)	General Dynamics	\$3,000,000	\$22,300
Moran, James (D-VA)	Planning Systems Inc.	\$2,000,000	\$21,900
Moran, James (D-VA)	BAE Systems	\$2,000,000	\$15,000
Moran, James (D-VA)	Delex Systems, Inc.	\$1,000,000	\$13,100
Moran, James (D-VA)	ArgonST	\$2,000,000	\$10,300
Moran, James (D-VA)	Object Video	\$2,000,000	\$9,600
Moran, James (D-VA)	AEPCO, Inc.	\$2,000,000	\$9,000
Moran, James (D-VA)	MobilVox	\$1,000,000	\$6,600
Moran, James (D-VA)	Bridgeborn, LLC.	\$2,000,000	\$5,000
Moran, James (D-VA)	Applied Signal Technology, Inc.	\$1,000,000	\$4,500
Moran, James (D-VA)	Artis, LLC	\$1,000,000	\$4,000
Murtha, John (D-PA)	DRS, Inc.	\$10,000,000	\$58,550
Murtha, John (D-PA)	Advanced Acoustic Concepts	\$5,000,000	\$40,200
Murtha, John (D-PA)	Prologis, Inc.	\$3,000,000	\$40,000
Murtha, John (D-PA)	MTS Technologies	\$5,000,000	\$33,600
Murtha, John (D-PA)	ArgonST	\$5,000,000	\$32,500
Murtha, John (D-PA)	Parametric Technology Corporation	\$1,000,000	\$20,300
Murtha, John (D-PA)	Conemaugh Health Systems	\$12,000,000	\$15,150
Murtha, John (D-PA)	Mountain Top Technologies	\$6,600,000	\$13,300
Murtha, John (D-PA)	Concurrent Technologies Corporation	\$10,000,000	\$12,300
Murtha, John (D-PA)	Nokomis, Inc.	\$1,000,000	\$12,100
Murtha, John (D-PA)	California University of Pennsylvania; Carnegie Mellon University	\$1,000,000	\$12,050
Murtha, John (D-PA)	Trident Systems Inc.	\$4,000,000	\$11,600
Murtha, John (D-PA)	Kuchera Defense Systems	\$10,000,000	\$11,500
Rogers, Harold (R-KY)	Progeny Systems Corporation	\$1,000,000	\$13,000
Rogers, Harold (R-KY)	Outdoor Venture Corporation	\$6,000,000	\$3,000
Rothman, Steven (D-NJ)	BAE Systems	\$7,000,000	\$15,000
Rothman, Steven (D-NJ)	Stevens Institute of Technology	\$3,000,000	\$11,800
Rothman, Steven (D-NJ)	ITT Electronic Systems	\$5,000,000	\$9,000
Rothman, Steven (D-NJ)	Englewood Hospital	\$2,000,000	\$8,650
Tiaht, Todd (R-KS)	Hawker-Beech Corporation	\$8,300,000	\$26,750

Member	Company	Earmarks	2008 Contributions
Tiaht, Todd (R-KS)	Boeing Company	\$5,000,000	\$22,300
Tiaht, Todd (R-KS)	Radiance Technology	\$2,500,000	\$11,100
Tiaht, Todd (R-KS)	Kaman/Plastic Fabricating Company	\$1,000,000	\$7,000
Tiaht, Todd (R-KS)	Curtiss-Wright	\$1,000,000	\$6,000
Tiaht, Todd (R-KS)	Teledyne Controls	\$1,000,000	\$4,000
Tiaht, Todd (R-KS)	Global Aviation Technologies	\$2,000,000	\$3,490
Visclosky, Peter (D-IN)	21st Century Systems, Inc	\$2,500,000	\$36,050
Visclosky, Peter (D-IN)	BriarTek Inc.	\$2,000,000	\$23,900
Visclosky, Peter (D-IN)	Sierra Nevada Corporation	\$2,500,000	\$20,800
Visclosky, Peter (D-IN)	Prologic, Inc.	\$4,000,000	\$20,500
Visclosky, Peter (D-IN)	Parametric Technology Corporation	\$1,500,000	\$20,400
Visclosky, Peter (D-IN)	Planning Systems Inc.	\$2,000,000	\$18,150
Visclosky, Peter (D-IN)	Cimcor	\$1,500,000	\$16,000
Visclosky, Peter (D-IN)	General Atomics	\$1,000,000	\$14,650
Visclosky, Peter (D-IN)	Optimal Solutions & Technologies (OST)	\$2,000,000	\$12,000
Visclosky, Peter (D-IN)	Cryptek	\$2,000,000	\$9,600
Visclosky, Peter (D-IN)	Applied Global Technologies	\$2,500,000	\$6,900
Visclosky, Peter (D-IN)	NuVant Systems Inc.	\$2,000,000	\$6,600
Visclosky, Peter (D-IN)	RaySat Antenna Systems	\$1,500,000	\$5,600
Young, C.W. Bill (R-FL)	DRS, Inc.	\$9,000,000	\$42,350
Young, C.W. Bill (R-FL)	Raytheon Company	\$10,000,000	\$20,850
Young, C.W. Bill (R-FL)	General Dynamics	\$9,500,000	\$15,000
Young, C.W. Bill (R-FL)	Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)	\$5,500,000	\$11,250
Young, C.W. Bill (R-FL)	Honeywell	\$14,000,000	\$11,000
Young, C.W. Bill (R-FL)	SRI International	\$7,000,000	\$7,300
Young, C.W. Bill (R-FL)	Concurrent Technologies Corporation	\$1,500,000	\$3,250
Young, C.W. Bill (R-FL)	Eclipse Energy Systems	\$1,600,000	\$2,500
Total		\$355,500,000	\$1,344,390

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