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## **RSC Chairman Hensarling Praises Movement to Reform Earmark Process, Calls on GOP Leadership to Take Lead**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Jeb Hensarling (R-TX), Chairman of the Republican Study Committee – a group of over 100 House conservatives, today issued the following statement about the Republican effort to reform earmarks:

**“Conservatives consistently made the case that the earmarking process has lent itself to the triumph of seniority over merit, secrecy over transparency, and the special interest over the national interest and I applaud both President Bush and Republican House leaders for making the effort to reform this broken system a top priority.**

**“Hypothetically speaking, when automotive manufacturers face insurmountable evidence that the brakes in their cars are defective, they recall all of the vehicles until the problem is fixed. The time has come for Congress to ‘place a recall on earmarks’ in the form of a year long moratorium until integrity can be restored to the process.**

**“To that end, I am requesting that all Republican leaders in the House continue to take the lead in efforts to reform earmarks by forgoing their own earmark requests for one year. I can understand how vulnerable Members, in both parties, can feel pressured and succumb to the baseless notion earmarks can help inoculate from electoral defeat. Such beliefs have become the myth of a broken process and will not be dispelled until the integrity of the process has been restored.**

**“The movement to fix the earmarking process has begun. It is important that leaders in the effort to fix the earmarking system set an example to the rest of our conference. As leaders in a movement to protect taxpayers, we shall not drink from the fountain until the water is pure.”**

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*Congressman Jeb Hensarling is Chairman of the Republican Study Committee (RSC).*