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June 11, 2024

Earmarks

What They Are and How They Can Help

PRESENTER

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Discussion Question:

Where did the term Earmark originate?



Background

- Community Project Funding (House)/ Congressionally Directed Spending (Senate) - better known as “Earmarks”
 - In practical terms, an earmark is a set-aside for a particular project within a designated federal account.
- Per the Constitution, Congress has the “power of the purse” and for many years Members of Congress and Senators engaged in the earmark process to benefit various entities within their districts/ states.
- Earmarks were abolished via congressional rules in FY 2011.
- Earmarks were included again starting in the FY22 appropriations process with rigorous transparency requirements.
- House Republicans voted to continue earmarks in FY24 but have made substantial changes to the eligible accounts.



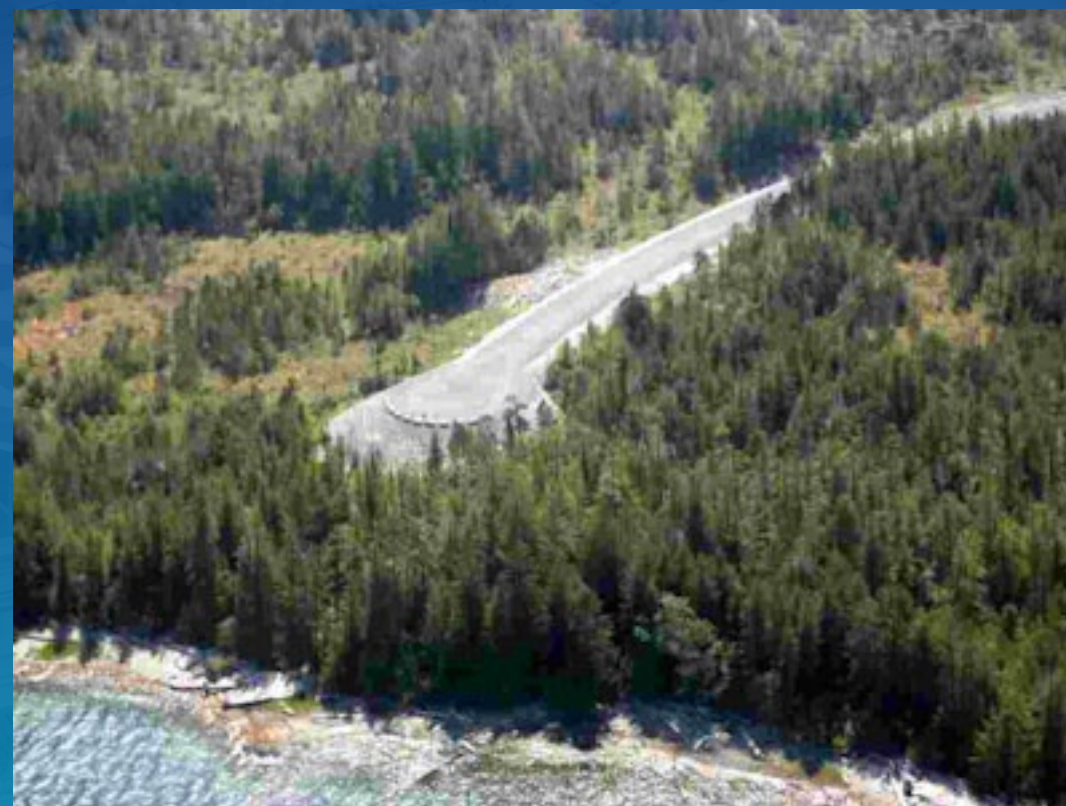
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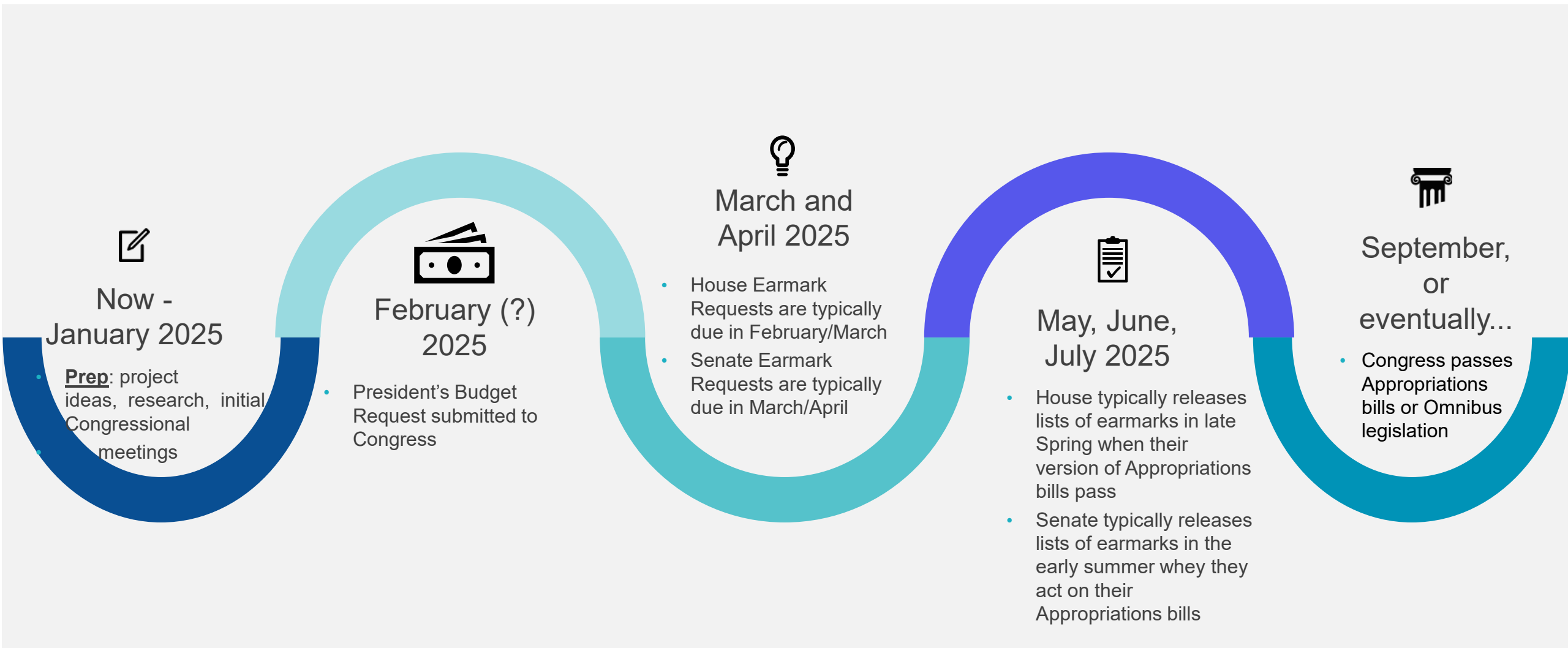
Discussion Question:

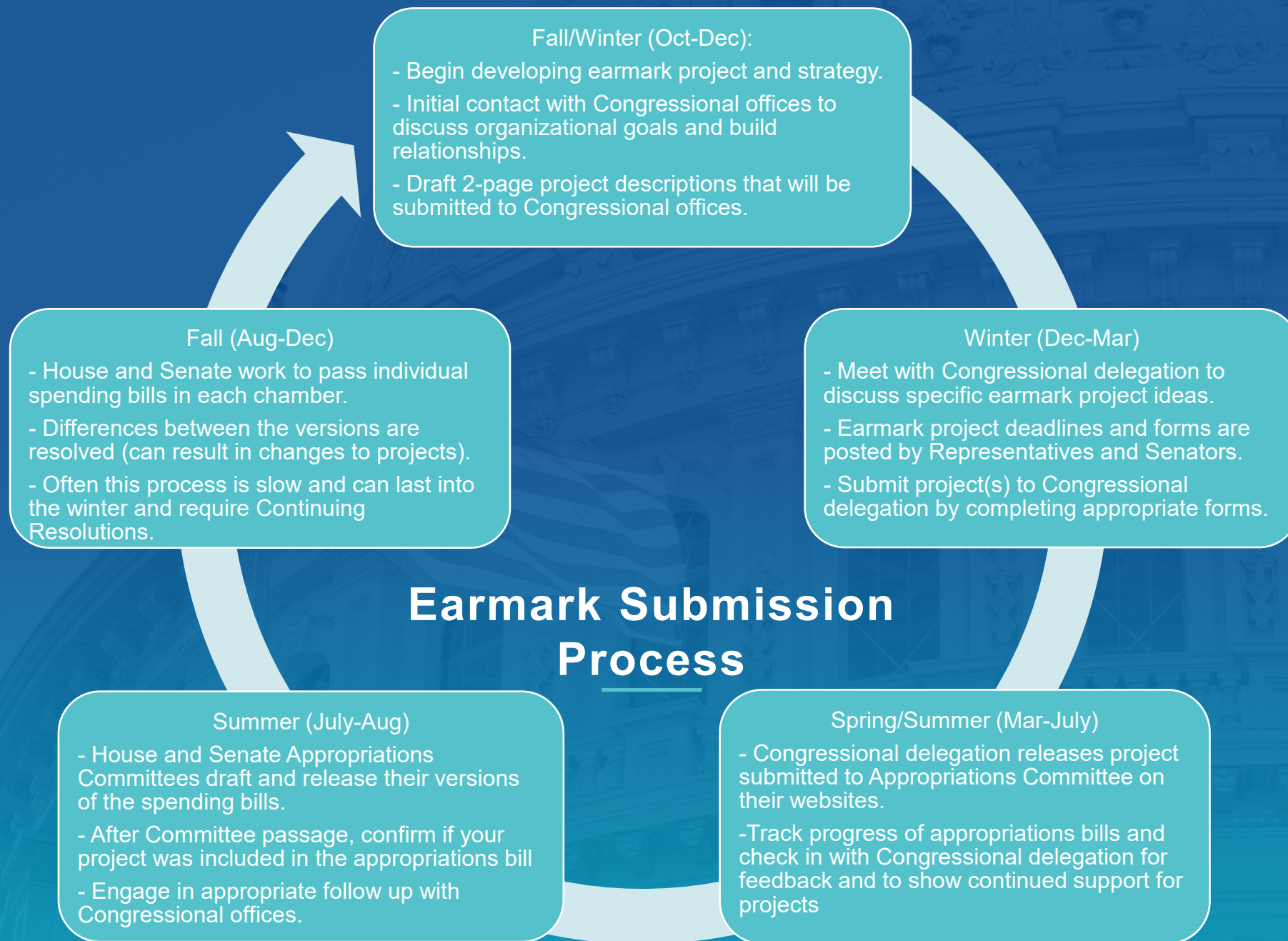
What was the stated rationale for the earmark process stopping in FY 2011?

Bridge to Nowhere (Gravina Island Bridge)



Appropriations Timeline





Guidelines

House and Senate

- 15 submissions per House office, no limit for Senate offices
- Only non-profits, local governments/ municipalities, and tribal governments are allowed to apply.
- Form submission required – forms can vary widely from office to office.
- Offices are required to post their earmark submissions on their websites.
- Other requirements for earmark submissions vary by appropriations committee/ account.
- Starting in FY24, House and Senate earmarked different accounts

Supplemental materials

- Budget broken out into large budget categories (Construction, IT, salaries, etc.)
 - In FY23 and 24, committee staff often asked for more detailed budget information.
- Evidence of community support (Articles, letters of community support from local elected officials)
 - In FY23 and 24, House offices were not required to submit these to the committee, but many required them internally.
- Proof of IRS designation (EIN, IRS 501(c)(3) letter)

How Do You Know if the Earmark is Chosen?

HOUSE

- House Appropriations Committee Website [Member Requests](#) Tab Includes (Under FY 25 CPF):
 - Links to projects included in each bill (listed in the Report accompanying bill).
- Example of Project Listing:

Department	Division	Project Description	Amount	Senator
Department of Health and Human Services	Health Resources and Services Administration	Cherry Hill Free Clinic, Cherry Hill, NJ for facilities and equipment	440,905	Norcross
Department of Health and Human Services	Health Resources and Services Administration	Children's Health Clinical Operations, Dallas, TX for facilities and equipment	1,000,000	Allred, Veasey
Department of Health and Human Services	Health Resources and Services Administration	Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA for equipment	1,500,000	Garcia (CA)
Department of Health and Human Services	Health Resources and Services Administration	Children's Clinic dba TCC Family Health, Long Beach, CA for facilities and equipment	575,000	Lowenthal
Department of Health and Human Services	Health Resources and Services Administration	Children's Health Clinical Operations, Dallas, TX for equipment	1,000,000	Van Duyne
Department of Health and Human Services	Health Resources and Services Administration	Children's Health of Orange County, Orange, CA for facilities and equipment	1,000,000	Correa
Department of Health and Human Services	Health Resources and Services Administration	Children's Hospital Medical Center of Akron, OH for facilities and equipment	2,000,000	Ryan
Department of Health and Human Services	Health Resources and Services Administration	Chinatown Service Center, Monterey Park, CA for equipment	215,000	Chu

SENATE

- Senate Appropriations Committee Website “About the Committee” Tab includes a link to [Congressionally Directed Spending Requests](#), which shows:
 - Links to all Senators’ lists of requests.
 - Links to all projects included in each bill.
- Being in the House or Senate bill *usually* means the project will be in the final bill.

Workforce Development Projects

- For FY 24 and 25, only Senate earmarks were permitted for the Department of Labor.
- Below are examples of projects funded in FY 23.

Building and Construction Trades Council of Alameda Co

Retention Apprenticeship Mentoring Program

 **\$1,000,000**

CO Building and Construction Trades Council

Workforce Training and Supportive Services

 **\$500,000**

New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board

Sector partnerships in skilled industrial, construction, and service trades

 **\$1,000,000**

City of Houston

Job training in the home recovery and construction industries.

 **\$1,000,000**





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Questions?





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