{enclose http://dev.ksco.got.net/podcasts/2008-02-22.mp3} The following is a KSCO commentary. Here is Kay Zwerling: The practice of Congressional earmarks has been a rotten and sneaky action condoned and used by many if not most members of Congress who were voted into office by their constituents who thought or hoped that their candidate was looking after their interests and had pledged to spend our money wisely. If you believe that, I have a bridge in Brooklyn I?d love to sell you. And, by the way, whenever Hillary talks about the importance of experience in being a lawmaker, she means learning the ropes, like about earmarks. I just received a letter from Steve Elliot, President of Grassfire.org Alliance, of which I?m a member, and the title of the letter is ?No More Pork Spending?, and it tells it well, so listen: ?Dear Kay, The Omnibus Spending Bill pushed through Congress last December gutted the Security Fence Act, but left intact were thousands of earmarks that directed hundreds of millions of tax dollars to pet projects and preferred supporters all without public debate or even a vote in Congress.Outrageously, just two months into the new year, lawmakers have already begun soliciting earmark requests for 2008.Kay, earmarks have become a symbol of the culture of the widespread corruption on Capitol Hill, and as a valued Grassfire team member, I?m asking you to join with me right now by signing our petition calling for an end to earmarks. 2007 was a banner year for pork. Citizens Against Government Waste reported the taxpayers have funded 2,658 so-called pork projects for a whopping $13 Billion (with a B). Listen to some of the following: 1. $1 million for Hillary Clinton's hippie museum in New York honoring the events of Woodstock. Who cares? $6 million to research new uses for wood.$1.3 million to Raleigh, North Carolina, to build a year-round climate-controlled park carousel.In each instance, Congress did not debate them in the open, and there was never even a public vote. Is it any wonder why Americans do not trust our elected leaders?We have only 30 days to make an impact.Kay, the corrupting influence of earmarks have boiled over, and I?m relying on members of our team to help me rally 100,000 citizens who are standing with me and demanding an end to earmarks.Here is what we are calling for: 1. An immediate one-year moratorium on earmarks.2. Congress to pass a permanent legislative or Constitutional solution that bans earmarks, and 3. Presidential and Congressional candidates to pledge to support the one-year moratorium as well as the permanent ban.It would be difficult to find a more self-serving and corruptive practice than earmarks. That's why I am asking all members of our team to join with me right now to help bring earmarks to an end. That is the end of the letter. And so listeners, if you would like to know more about this group, and perhaps join in, go to Grassfire.org Alliance (G in Grassfire is capital, and A in Alliance is also capital), and thank you so much for listening to me.For KSCO and KOMY, this is Kay Zwerling. Copyright 2008