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Cato Asks For Public Help On Tracking Earmarks

By Eliza Krigman

Similar to the work of the [transparency corps](#) at the Sunlight Foundation, WashingtonWatch.com is calling all citizens to contribute to an earmark database online to track how members of Congress steer federal funds to special interests and projects in their districts. While still a work-in-progress, the group's earmark [page](#) features information on hundreds of earmarks that can easily be organized by state or lawmaker.

Administered by **Jim Harper**, director of information policy studies at the Cato Institute, Washington Watch tracks bills by proposed cost and savings, newest and most active.

In addition to helping improve the transparency of government, Washington Watch is giving prizes to encourage citizens to participate. Ranked by the amount of earmarks you enter into the database, first place will receive an Amazon Kindle, second place an iPod shuffle and third place a fruitcake (if the last one raised any eyebrows, all winners can choose to receive the cash value of their prize.)

[See here for more information](#) on how to participate.

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