

Waste Watch

The official newsletter of Citizens Against Government Waste & the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste

Message from the President

Thomas A. Schatz

THANKS TO your generosity, CAGW's influence is growing. I want to share with you some specific examples of how we are putting your support to work.

CAGW debuted a new monthly video series in April. The initial video focused on the *Pig Book*, and subsequent videos have featured our "Porkers of the Month." These eye-catching, entertaining videos, which you can find on our YouTube page (youtube.com/user/CAGWmedia), are enhancing CAGW's online presence and building our outreach to the "Millennial" generation of taxpayers.

Continuing this outreach, CAGW has hired a new social media manager. The impact is impressive: We now have nearly 80,000 followers on Facebook (facebook.com/CAGW) and Twitter (@GovWaste) — an increase of 78 percent over the past 12 months. Our e-mail list has also grown to more than 200,000 taxpayers, who receive updates like our e-newsletter and CCAGW's grassroots Action Alerts. (You can sign up today at cagw.org!)

You are also helping CAGW expand our impact on traditional media. In the first half of 2016, we received 151 media citations, a 31 percent increase over the same period last year. Our television appearances have included ABC's "World News Tonight," CNN Headline News' "Morning Express," and FOX News Channel's "America's Newsroom" and "FOX & Friends." CAGW's work has also been cited by the Associated Press, *Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Times*, and *The Washington Post*, to name just a few periodicals.

You are making this growth happen by supporting CAGW. Our impact reflects your generosity and leadership. Thank you for your commitment! •

CAGW Fights Congressional Pig-Out HIGH ON THE HOG

"Earmarks are making an unwelcome comeback in Washington," warned CAGW President Tom Schatz on April 13 as he released the **2016 Congressional Pig Book**. The latest installment of CAGW's 24-year exposé of pork-barrel spending revealed that Congress for the fourth time circumvented the earmark moratorium established in fiscal year (FY) 2011 in order to waste vital taxpayer dollars on parochial and non-essential pet projects,

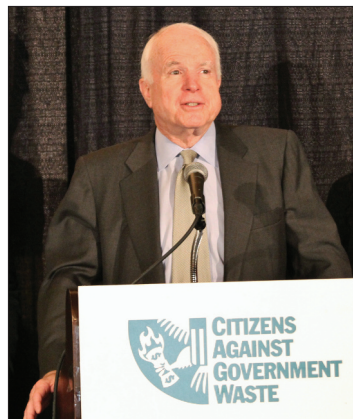
and the FY 2016 figures were alarming:

- The number of earmarks rose to 123 — a 17 percent increase over FY 2015;
- The cost of earmarks jumped by 89 percent from FY 2014, surging to \$5.1 billion.

"We must cut this out-of-control spending and ensure that spending

HIGH ON THE HOG

continues on Pg. 2



photos © Gedalia Vera

[clockwise from top left] Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) speaks at the unveiling of the 2016 Pig Book; Rep. Bill Flores (R-Texas) with CAGW's mascot, PigFoot; Rep. Flores and Sens. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) and Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) with CAGW President Tom Schatz.

CAGW Releases Prime Cuts 2016

PRIMED FOR LESS GOVERNMENT

On June 28, CAGW released its latest compendium of waste-cutting recommendations, *Prime Cuts 2016*, which details 618 specific reforms that would save taxpayers \$644.1 billion in one year and **\$2.6 TRILLION** over five years.

If Congress adopted all of *Prime Cuts'* recommendations — from eliminating Depression-era agricultural subsidies and price controls to implementing proven measures to fight Medicare fraud — the federal budget would be balanced in just one year.

“By following the blueprint provided by *Prime Cuts 2016*, wasteful government spending can be eliminated; the budget can be balanced; and the nation can begin to lower the \$19 trillion national debt,”

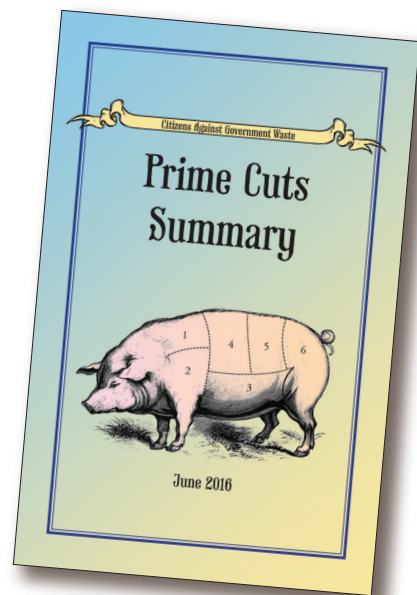
declared CAGW President Tom Schatz in unveiling this year's *Prime Cuts*.

With reports like this, CAGW has made Washington's waste an issue that no candidate for public office can ignore.

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has pledged, “There's tremendous waste, fraud, and abuse, and we're going to get it.” Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton has stated, “We need expertise and innovation from the private sector to help cut waste and streamline services.”

Prime Cuts 2016 gives White House hopefuls and congressional candidates across the political spectrum a blueprint for making good on their campaign pledges to make government programs and services more efficient, responsive, and accountable.

To read the full report, visit cagw.org.



HIGH ON THE HOG *continued from Pg. 1*

restraints are in place if we are ever to get our debt under control,” said Sen. Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), one of several members of Congress who helped CAGW unveil the *Pig Book*, along with CAGW's mascot, PigFoot, and special guest Faye, a pot-bellied pig from Richmond, Va.

Also standing with CAGW against pork-barrel spending were Sens. John

McCain (R-Ariz.) and Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.) and Reps. Bill Flores (R-Texas) and Mick Mulvaney (R-S.C.). Their leadership on behalf of taxpayers is laudable, as politicians from both parties are calling for a restoration of earmarks.

“The *2016 Pig Book* shows once again that any earmark is a bad earmark,” noted Schatz. “Taxpayers should deliver a loud and clear message

that it is time for earmarks to be banned, once and for all.”

Turn to pages 4-5 of this issue of *Government WasteWatch* for an overview of CAGW's porcine findings. View the *2016 Pig Book* in its entirety online at cagw.org. To order your personal copy of the *2016 Congressional Pig Book Summary*, visit cagw.org/pigbookorders.



[clockwise from above] PigFoot with special guest Faye, the pot-bellied pig; Faye and CAGW Director of Research Sean Kennedy, the author of the *Pig Book*, compare notes; Sen. Flake and Faye take a selfie.

photos © Gedalia Vera

Meet 2016's Porkers of the Month

CAGW'S HALL OF SHAME

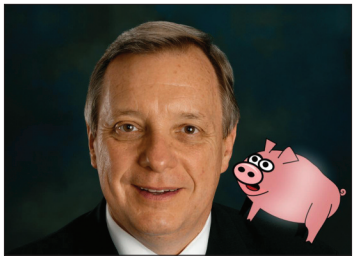
CAGW's **Porker of the Month** award is a dubious honor given to politicians and government officials from both parties who have shown a blatant disregard for the interests of taxpayers. At the beginning of each year, CAGW's members are

asked to vote on the worst of the worst from the prior year to help determine the **Porker of the Year**. The "honorees" so far in 2016, in order by month, are below.

To find out which tax-and-spend public officials are named Porker of the

Month for the rest of 2016, follow CAGW on Twitter ([@GovWaste](https://twitter.com/GovWaste)) and Facebook (facebook.com/CAGW). For the latest Porker of the Month videos, visit CAGW's YouTube page at youtube.com/user/CAGWmedia.

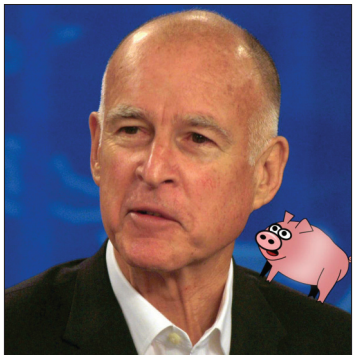
CAGW'S "HONOREES" SO FAR IN 2016



Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.), who led the effort to block a permanent ban on Internet access taxes. (The senator's attempt ultimately failed, and CAGW applauded the passage of a permanent Internet tax ban, which President Obama signed into law on February 24.)



Gov. Alejandro García Padilla (D) of Puerto Rico, for recklessly pushing the U.S. territory into default and potentially jeopardizing American taxpayers with a multibillion-dollar bailout.



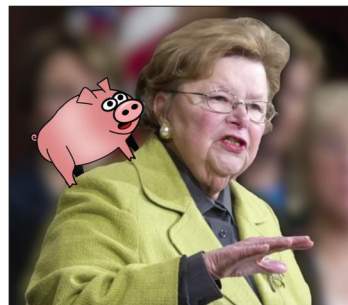
Gov. Jerry Brown (D) of California, for proposing to waste state funds on a multi-billion-dollar project that would divert fresh water away from farms and communities that have suffered through a nearly five-year drought, all in the name of protecting a three-inch fish known as the delta smelt.



Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, for failing to take sufficient steps to eliminate the "nightmarish" lines at Transportation Security Administration airport checkpoints across the nation.



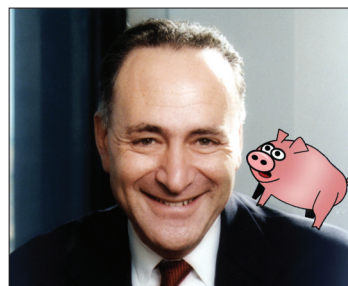
Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), who has blocked a bipartisan bill designed to empower federal agency inspectors general in their battles against waste, fraud, abuse, and mismanagement.



Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), who called for a return of wasteful and corruptive earmarks. During her lengthy Senate career, Sen. Mikulski has diverted more than \$620 million in earmarks to her state.



Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii), the only member of Congress shameless enough to brag about securing one of the earmarks featured in CAGW's 2016 *Congressional Pig Book*.



Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.), for his leading role in the effort to create supposedly "debt-free" college for all students, which would exacerbate rather than resolve the student loan crisis. •

2016 Congressional Pig Book PORK-BARREL EARMARKS ARE

Why are CAGW and its members and supporters so passionate about fighting pork-barrel earmarks? Because earmarks represent the worst of Washington. They create a few winners (politicians, special interests, lobbyists) and many losers (taxpayers). They add to the \$19 trillion national debt. And they corrupt the federal budgetary process and undermine democracy.

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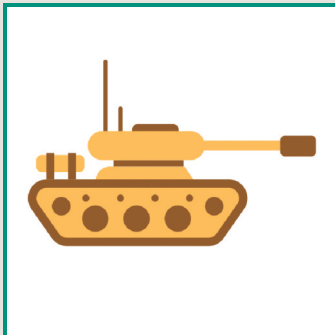
AGRICULTURE

There were four agriculture-related earmarks in FY 2016, costing taxpayers **\$23.9 million**.



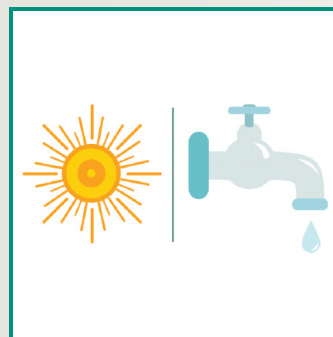
COMMERCE/JUSTICE/SCIENCE

Just one earmark in the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2016 cost taxpayers **\$60 million** — an increase of 300% over FY 2015.



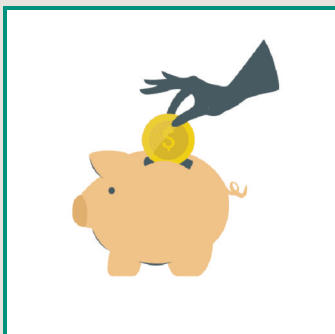
DEFENSE

The cost of defense earmarks is rising, hitting **\$3.3 billion** in FY 2016 — up 44% over FY 2015 — and accounting for 65% of the total cost of earmarks in FY 2016.



ENERGY & WATER

The number of earmarks in the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2016 increased by 10%, at a cost to taxpayers of **\$704.7 million**.

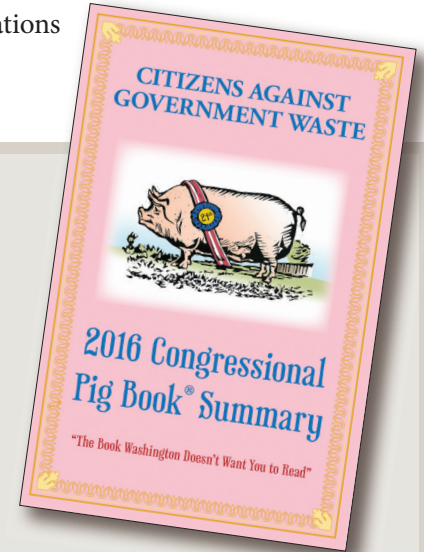


FINANCIAL SERVICES

Just a single earmark in the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act of 2016 cost taxpayers **\$56.6 million** — an increase of 10% over FY 2015.

ARE MAKING AN UNWELCOME COMEBACK IN WASHINGTON

The number or cost of earmarks, and sometimes both, rose in 10 of the 12 annual appropriations bills in FY 2016 as outlined below. A more detailed analysis is available on CAGW's website at cagw.org. Thank you for being part of the fight to cut this waste! •



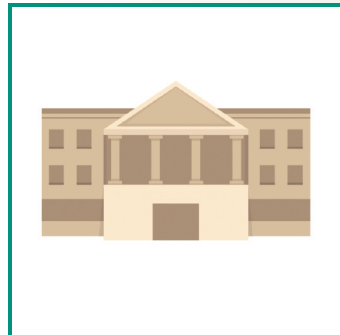
HOMELAND SECURITY

The cost of earmarks in the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2016 hit **\$329.1 million**, a 3% increase over FY 2015.



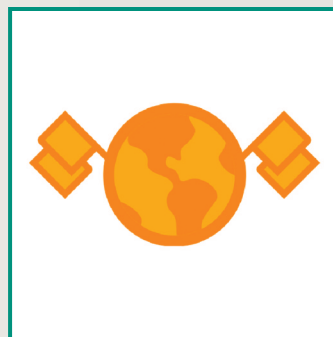
LABOR/HHS

The number of earmarks in the Labor/Health & Human Services (HHS) Appropriations Act of 2016 rose 50% over FY 2015, costing **\$252.6 million**.



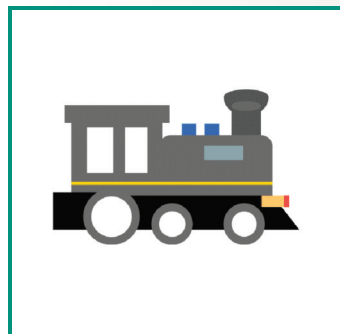
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

One lone earmark in the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act of 2016 cost **\$84.7 million** — a massive 42,250% increase since FY 2010.



STATE & FOREIGN OPS

The five earmarks in the State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Act of 2016 cost **\$232.4 million** — an increase of 31% over FY 2015.



THUD

The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2016 contained two earmarks totaling **\$8.8 million** — a 941.4% increase over FY 2014.

CCAGW-Backed Bills Save Billions for Taxpayers

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – TAXPAYER VICTORIES

Don't let anyone tell you that nothing can get done in Washington because of the deep partisan division. CCAGW is hard at work for taxpayers, proving that sensible, cost-saving measures can gain widespread bipartisan support in Congress.

Legislative victories you've made possible this year include:

- **The Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA)**, which passed the Senate 68-30 after a bipartisan 297-127 vote in the House of Representatives. PROMESA ensures that American taxpayers will not be liable for any defaults on Puerto Rico's \$72 billion in debt obligations, while also steering the territory toward a more secure and prosperous economic future. CCAGW ran radio ads in key congressional districts to fight misinformation about PROMESA, and CCAGW members sent nearly 20,000 letters to Capitol Hill in support of the legislation.
- **The Making Electronic Government Accountable By Yielding Tangible Efficiencies**

(MEGABYTE) Act, which requires federal agencies to keep better track of the software they purchase. Currently, federal agencies are riddled with redundant software licenses, and cutting this waste and mismanagement, which has been a long-term focus for CCAGW, will mean "hundreds of millions of dollars in government-wide savings," according to the Government Accountability Office.

- **The Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act (PITFA)**, which permanently bans states from taxing Internet access, was signed into law on February 24. CCAGW generated more than 76,500 e-mails and letters to the House and Senate in 2015 and 2016 backing this measure, which will prevent American households from being hit with a new tax burden totaling up to \$14.7 billion annually.

Remember to check in at ccagw.org for the latest on the legislative battles CCAGW is fighting for you, and the money-saving victories your support is making possible. •

VETO ALERT!

President Obama has vetoed a bill that would rein in the taxpayer-funded expense accounts of former presidents.

CCAGW was instrumental in winning passage of this sensible measure, which would have capped the yearly allowance for travel, staff, and office costs that have become a standard part of life after the Oval Office. For former presidents who make money through books, speaking fees, and other ventures, the allowance would have been reduced by \$1 for every dollar in outside income above \$400,000. These new restrictions would have applied to President Obama when he leaves the White House in 2017. You can count on CCAGW to keep up the fight to curb taxpayer-funded presidential perks!

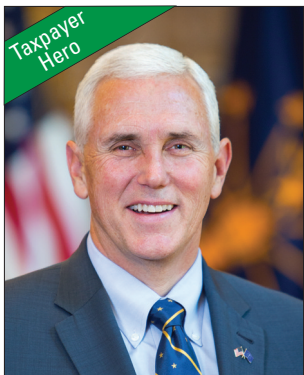
CCAGW Releases Tax and Spending Scores for Pence, Kaine

A TALE OF TWO VEEPS

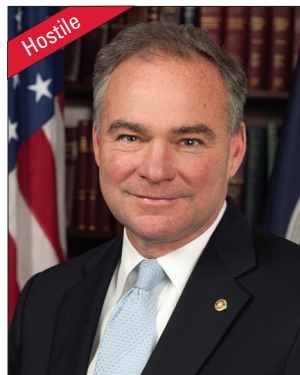
When presidential nominees Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton named their running mates, CCAGW was able to immediately

pull their scores from its *Congressional Ratings* and let taxpayers know how the vice presidential candidates have voted on key tax and spending measures.

Since 1989, CCAGW has compiled scores for every member of Congress — find out how lawmakers from your state stack up at ccagwratings.org.



Gov. Mike Pence (R) of Indiana served in the House of Representatives from 2001-2013, and during that time earned a lifetime CCAGW rating of **94 percent**. In 2009, then-Rep. Pence was one of only seven representatives who earned a 100 percent rating, making him a Taxpayer Super Hero.



Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) has served in the U.S. Senate since 2013, and holds a lifetime CCAGW rating of **7 percent** — even worse than Secretary Clinton's lifetime score of 8 percent — making him one of the Senate's most "hostile" members toward taxpayers. In 2014, Sen. Kaine earned a dismal 0 percent rating. •

CAGW at the Republican National Convention

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM

CAGW hosted an A-list event at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio that put a spotlight on its members' top priorities: controlling Washington's spending and reining in the nation's \$19 trillion debt.

The panel discussion, **Debt 911: The Nation's Fiscal Emergency**, brought these issues to the forefront with the help of two of CAGW's most powerful allies in Congress: House Freedom Caucus Chairman Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) and House Financial Services Subcommittee on Monetary Policy and Trade Chairman Bill Huizenga (R-Mich.), both known for their expertise on federal budget issues and their commitment to a leaner, more limited government that costs taxpayers less.

Afterwards, CAGW and its friends at the National Taxpayers Union Foundation

(NTUF) hosted a reception honoring those public officials who are fighting to cut taxes and wasteful spending. House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) addressed the gathering and recalled working together with CAGW President Tom Schatz in the early 1990s to "get the conservative movement up and running." He commended CAGW for "the shock troops, the transparency, the detail you bring, the clarity and vision you bring to fiscal responsibility and limited government."

In addition to Speaker Ryan, notable attendees included: House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Texas); House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-Utah); House Small Business Committee Chairman Steve Chabot (R-Ohio); and Republican Study Committee Chairman Bill Flores (R-Texas). •



[1] House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) with CAGW President Tom Schatz at the CAGW-NTUF reception; [2-3] Leading CAGW's panel discussion, Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio) explained the need to bring down the national debt and Rep. Bill Huizenga (R-Mich.) pointed out the problems with big government; [4] Tom Schatz with Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) and NTUF President Pete Sepp; [5] CAGW Vice President for Policy and Communications Leslie Paige with House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Texas); [6] Rep. Alex Mooney (R-W. Va.) with CAGW Government Affairs Director Bill Christian; [7] A delegate from Hawaii questioned Reps. Huizenga and Jordan at CAGW's panel discussion; [8] Rep. French Hill (R-Ark.) with Bill Christian; [9] Rep. Brady (center), flanked by (from left to right) Pete Sepp, CAGW Board member Bob Heckman, Tom Schatz, and NTUF Executive Vice President Brandon Arnold.



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CAGW RECEIVES RECORD BEQUEST

CAGW was recently honored to receive a record \$4.7 million bequest to the **J. Peter Grace Legacy Society** from the Dawn H. Potter Revocable Trust.

Mrs. Potter was a Charter Member of CAGW, joining in 1993. "It was always a great pleasure discussing CAGW's activities with Mrs. Potter," said CAGW President Tom Schatz in a press release

announcing the gift. "Her sharp intellect and commonsense views were refreshing and emblematic of so many of the concerned taxpayers who support our organization."

CAGW is using Mrs. Potter's bequest to enhance its public and media outreach activities, broaden its impact on state tax and spending issues, and

endow an investigative fellowship.

You can make limited government your legacy by becoming part of the J. Peter Grace Legacy Society and including CAGW in your estate plans. For more information, contact CAGW Director of Development Martin Rundle at **1-800-USA-DEBT** or e-mail him at jpgsociety@cagw.org.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

We've redesigned *Government WasteWatch* to tell you more about how your support for CAGW is making a difference. Please use the included response envelope to share your thoughts about this update — what you like or dislike, and what you want to see more of in future editions. Thank you! •

CAGW ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF ANNUAL, INDEPENDENT AUDIT

As nonprofit organizations, CAGW and CCAGW are audited on an annual basis by an independent accounting firm. The just-completed FY 2015 audit confirmed that the organizations generated combined revenue of \$7,448,529 and expenses of \$3,596,702. Individual contributors provided 89 percent of revenue, with

foundation and corporate support accounting for 11 percent. CAGW's and CCAGW's program expenses on public education, research, and lobbying absorbed 68 percent of expenditures in 2015. Fundraising accounted for 18 percent of expenses, and management 14 percent. For more financial information, visit cagw.org. •