

Earmarks & the Constitution

The [U.S. Constitution](#) states in Article 1, Section 8 that it is Congress' responsibility to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely. Along these lines, Congressman Akin supports spending decisions made by Congress when it is done with transparency, accountability and is justifiably constitutional. These areas include key infrastructure projects and our national defense. Our families and businesses rely on safe roads and highways and our warfighters should have the equipment they need to defend us.

Some believe Congress should be prohibited from designating where money should be spent. While well-intentioned, such action violates the Constitution and shifts important spending decisions from elected representatives in Congress to unaccountable bureaucrats in Washington, D.C.. This is not the right path. Rather, such spending decisions should be carefully vetted during the committee process—a process that is open and transparent to the public.

Highway 141

Congressman Akin does not condone or participate in “air-dropping” earmarks into bills in the middle of the night. In fact, over the years he has introduced legislation that would ban such a practice in Congress.

At times, Congressman Akin has supported the legitimate defense and infrastructure appropriation projects that better our country and Missouri. One of these infrastructure projects was the expansion and improvement of Highway 141 in St. Louis County. Many federal, state, and local officials supported this project long before Congressman Akin was ever elected to federal office. Although some residents opposed this project at the time because of concerns that it would reduce the value of residential property in the area, this project was a critical infrastructure improvement that provided a significant north/south reliever to Interstate 270 which was operating over its capacity. Congressman Akin was proud to have supported it, and stands by his decision to do so.

