

PROTECTING AMERICAN TAXPAYERS

SENATOR MCCAIN SPENT HIS CAREER WORKING TO PROTECT THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER BY FIGHTING TO ELIMINATE WASTE, FRAUD, AND ABUSE IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

Eliminating the Corrupt Practice of Earmarks

From the beginning of his tenure on Capitol Hill, Senator McCain made it a top priority to end the corrupting influence of special interests in Washington. During Congress's annual debate on spending bills, Senator McCain made it regular practice to expose unnecessary federal expenditures and offer amendments to eliminate them. He also led an aggressive, years-long assault on [earmarks](#), which resulted in Congress enacting a moratorium the corrupt practice in 2010.

Investigating Government Corruption

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Senator McCain led a bipartisan investigation into the corrupt practices of lobbyist [Jack Abramoff](#). Instances of apparent violations of congressional rules by members and staff who were the beneficiaries of Mr. Abramoff's largesse were widely reported. In fact, Jack Abramoff reportedly dubbed the Appropriations Committee a "favor factory." During Senator McCain's two-year investigation, the committee issued subpoenas, sought hours of testimony, and discovered a web of corruption that aided in the conviction of Mr. Abramoff on bribery, fraud, and tax evasion charges, and ultimately landed him in prison. In all, more than 20 people – including an ex-congressman, administration officials, congressional staffers, and lobbyists – were indicted, convicted, or pled guilty. The investigation in part compelled Congress to enact major reforms to the lobbying industry.

Shaming Washington's Waste

Senator McCain authored and co-authored numerous oversight and waste reports to name and shame wasteful government spending, and hold federal agencies accountable to the American public. Senator McCain most recently produced seven oversight reports entitled "[America's Most Wasted](#)," which exposed billions in wasteful and duplicative spending by

federal agencies including the Department of Defense, as well as billions in onerous government regulations that have harmed Main Street and hindered economic growth.

In 2015, Senators McCain and Flake released a [joint oversight report](#) exposing \$6.8 million in spending by the Department of Defense to professional sports teams in the NFL, MLB, NHL, and MLS to honor American service members at sporting events. The senators successfully amended the [National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2016](#) to prohibit the Department of Defense from spending taxpayer dollars on these deceitful practices, and to call on professional sports organizations that have accepted taxpayer funds in exchange for military tributes to donate those profits to organizations supporting U.S. armed forces, veterans, and their families.

Transparency in Government Spending

Senator McCain joined then-Senators Barack Obama and Tom Coburn in championing legislation that created [usaspending.gov](#). This transparency website allows taxpayers to see how their tax dollars are spent by government agencies, including grants and government contracts.