

**LIBERTARIAN U.S. SENATE CANDIDATE COMMENTS
ON AJC'S EARMARKS AND HOUSING BILLS
ARTICLES; CHALLENGES SAXBY CHAMBLISS AND
ULTIMATE DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE TO DEBATE ON
NATION'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS**

Atlanta, Georgia – July 28, 2008

On July 25, 2008, an article by Julia Malone and Scott Girard concerning Congressional earmarks was published in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* (AJC). On July 27, 2008, an article concerning the housing relief bill by David Milterszenhorn of the *New York Times* was published in the AJC.

The July 25th earmarks article said five of Georgia's House of Representatives members, Paul Broun, Nathan Deal, John Linder, Tom Price and Lynn Westmoreland, had taken a pledge not to seek earmarks.

The article stated that Senators Isakson and Chambliss did not take the pledge. Mr. Chambliss criticized the House members who took the pledge because it would make it harder for him and other non-pledgers to get the earmarks. Mr. Chambliss cited two museums as examples of earmarks about which he is not embarrassed.

Allen Buckley, the Libertarian Party's candidate for U.S. Senate, said: "The five House members who took the no earmarks pledge were right to have done so. Mr. Chambliss should have done the same, and should have simultaneously promised to fight to eliminate all earmarks and pork subsidies."

In 2007, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) said: “GAO’s current long-term simulations continue to show ever-larger deficits resulting in a federal debt burden that ultimately spirals out-of-control.” GAO also said in 2007 the present value, over the next 75 years, of the retirement entitlements of the federal government (alone) total \$50.5 trillion, while the total net worth of all Americans combined is \$53.3 trillion. The current debt is approximately \$9.5 trillion. The housing bill will increase the debt limit to \$10.6 trillion. Earlier in 2008, the GAO said that fiscal policy is “unsustainable.” Accordingly, absent a substantial change in direction, the federal government is headed for an economic catastrophe.

In December of 2007 and again in 2008, Mr. Buckley challenged Saxby Chambliss to a debate with respect to the Fair Tax bill co-sponsored by Mr. Chambliss. However, Mr. Chambliss never responded to the challenge.

The July 27th AJC article on the housing relief bill noted that both of Georgia’s Senators, Isakson and Chambliss, voted in favor of the housing relief bill. That bill permits up to \$300 billion of taxpayer’s money, or over \$2,500 per household, to be utilized to bail out borrowers who got in over their heads. Also, a line of credit would be made available to Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae.

Buckley said: “If elected, I’ll take a no earmarks, no pork, no subsidies pledge, and I will fight to permanently eliminate these wasteful expenditures from federal budgets. I would not vote for a bill such as the housing relief bill that Saxby Chambliss has voted for, as it rewards irresponsibility and

increases the debt burden on future generations.” Buckley also said: “I hereby challenge Mr. Chambliss and the ultimate Democratic nominee to a debate on the prudence of earmarks, pork, subsidies, means of changing the tax and entitlements systems, and the financial soundness of continuously increasing federal spending and deficits in light of the GAO’s warnings.”

Mr. Buckley’s website is www.buckleyforsenate.com. He can be reached for comment at (404) 962-1042.