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# Busby Says Bilbray Slips Into Duke's Shoes

*First Week in Office, Bilbray Votes Himself a Pay Raise, Opposes Ban on Awarding Contracts to Off-Shore Companies avoiding US Taxes; Continues Practice of Secret Earmarks for Special Interests*

Cardiff, CA - "The voters of CA 50 deserve better" says Busby speaking out against Bilbray's first votes.

In his first two days in Congress, Representative Brian Bilbray of CA 50 voted to give himself a pay raise, to award government contracts to companies incorporated in offshore tax havens and went back on his promise to oppose secret earmark appropriations.

On Tuesday, June 13, the same day that he was sworn into office to replace imprisoned, former CA 50 Rep. Duke Cunningham, Rep. Brian Bilbray voted himself a Congressional pay raise giving all members an increase of \$3,330 a year starting in 2007. (HR 5576, vote #261, 6/13/06; [Roll Call](#), 6/14/06)

Francine Busby, Democratic candidate for CA 50 stated, "It is immoral for Mr. Bilbray to vote himself a pay raise while Congress is deficit spending and San Diego families, who don't have the luxury of voting themselves pay raises, are struggling with the high cost of gas, housing and healthcare."

"Early on in my campaign, I pledged not to accept a pay raise if elected as long as Congress continued deficit spending," says Busby. Busby supports enforcing the pay-as-you-go budget rules that were enforced from 1990 through 2000 that contributed to budget surpluses from 1998 to 2001.

Busby also criticized Bilbray for voting against a ban on government contracts for companies that incorporate in tax havens like Bermuda and the Cayman Islands. "I oppose rewarding companies who avoid paying over \$5 billion annually in taxes with taxpayer funded government contracts while honest, hardworking Americans are playing and paying by the rules," states Busby. ([HR 5576, vote #275, 6/14/06; DeLauro Press Release, 6/14/06])



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The Club For Growth, a conservative advocacy group, noted that Bilbray went back on his word when he voted 'Yes' on the T-THUD appropriations bill on June 14 which, according to their report, "contained over 1500 earmarks most of which weren't even in the final bill, but secretly hidden in committee".(June 15, The Club for Growth.org/blog)

On March 6, 2006 Dani Dodge, of the San Diego Union Tribune reported "Bilbray said problems arise when earmarking is done in secret, so he proposed a ban on earmarks done behind closed doors." He repeated his opposition to "private so-called earmarks" in an interview on UCSD TV on May 26, 2006.

"The results of the special election on June 6 proved this is a competitive race and we intend to win, in November" says Busby.

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