The Indianapolis Star had coverage over the weekend of the Congressman's recent decision to not seek earmarks in Fiscal Year 2009.

The Columbus Republican said he does not think all earmarks are bad, but that too many projects are not being funded fairly and responsibly, and a timeout is needed.

Project funding does not go through a competitive review but is distributed based largely on clout -- including a lawmaker's committee assignment or leadership position, whether his party is in the majority or whether he faces re-election.

Sen. Evan Bayh , D-Ind., supported the moratorium because Congress needs to rein in federal spending, and a break on pork-barrel projects is a good place to start, according to his spokesman.

Sen. Richard Lugar , R-Ind., voted against it because he thinks the process should have more transparency but not be eliminated.