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How Much Longer Will Space Continue to Defend Murtha Inc.?

Zack Space Accepted Campaign Cash from Murtha, Continues to Stand Loyal by Corrupt Congressman As FBI Closes in on Favor Factory

Washington- Another round of disturbing news has hit the press surrounding Congressman Jack Murtha's long and troubling relationship with now defunct PMA Group. After PMA was forced to close its doors in the wake of an ongoing FBI investigation into the group's questionable dealings, Murtha still refused to apologize for his relationship with PMA and for using a broken, taxpayer-funded earmarking system for self-serving purposes:

"If I'm corrupt, it's because I take care of my district," Mr. Murtha said.
(Dennis B. Roddy, "Critics claim John Murtha is capitalizing on a corrupt system, but he's not apologizing," Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, March 29, 2009)

Jack Murtha's ties with disgraced lobbyist Paul Magliocchetti reeks of the same pay-to-play politics Democrats so ardently campaigned against in their quest to control Congress:

"That impresario act – pulling bottles from the private wine locker labeled 'Mags' to entertain lawmakers at the clubby Capital Grille steakhouse, sending gift baskets or wine to lawmakers and their aides, or leasing each of his lobbyists a Lexus – helped Mr. Magliocchetti, a protégé of the powerful Representative John P. Murtha, build his lobbying firm into one of the 10 biggest in Washington." (David D. Kirkpatrick and Charlie Savage, "Star Lobbyist Closes Shop Amid F.B.I. Inquiry," New York Times, March 30, 2009)

"... the FBI is investigating whether PMA founder Paul Magliocchetti, a former Appropriations Committee staffer, made 'straw man' donations on behalf of his employees or other individuals to members of Congress, which is illegal under federal election law."

"House Democrats built their new majority in large part by running hard against the 'culture of corruption' in Washington." (Patrick O'Connor and John Bresnahan, "Dems fear defections in PMA probe," Politico, March 30, 2009)

Yet, in Washington, Rep. Zack Space (D-OH) continues to stand loyally by Murtha. In the wake of the growing Murtha, Inc. scandal, numerous resolutions have been voted on in

recent weeks calling for ethics investigations into the relationship between these earmarking practices and campaign contributions.

“Critics of Mr. Murtha and the earmarks process say the congressman's success in directing federal dollars to businesses in his district has created a sort of triangular trade in politics: He directs earmarks to particular firms that hire lobbyists who, in turn, direct campaign contributions back to Mr. Murtha.”
(Dennis B. Roddy, “Critics claim John Murtha is capitalizing on a corrupt system, but he's not apologizing,” *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, March 29, 2009)

And Mr. Murtha has been happy to hand out some of these campaign contributions to fellow Democrats like Zack Space, who in turn has repeatedly voted to protect Murtha, PMA and the process (House Roll Calls, 87, 105, 113, 141, 155).

“Zack Space’s unabashed willingness to stand in solidarity with Jack Murtha embodies everything that is wrong with Washington,” said NRCC Communications Director Ken Spain. “While Ohio families are struggling to keep their jobs and stay in their homes, their Congressman, Zack Space, is turning a blind eye to pay-to-play politics at the expense of his constituents back home.”

Another resolution from Congressman Jeff Flake is expected to come up for a vote in the House tonight. After receiving \$14,000 in campaign cash from Murtha’s various fundraising accounts, will Zack Space continue to stand loyally by his corrupt companion?

“A trickle of defections has Democratic House leaders wondering how long they can hold off calls for an investigation into the PMA Group and its ties to Pennsylvania Rep. John P. Murtha.” (Patrick O’Connor and John Bresnahan, “Dems fear defections in PMA probe,” *Politico*, March 30, 2009)

How much longer can Zack Space continue to defend Murtha and still claim to his constituents that he’s keeping his promise to change the way Washington works?

(contribution source: <http://www.fec.gov>)

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