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# The 'Most Wasteful' Senators, According to Conservatives

By [Shawn Zeller](#), CQ Roll Call

Citizens Against Government Waste, the conservative activist group, made a name for itself in Washington with its annual “pig book,” which highlights earmarked funding procured by lawmakers for their home districts. The group’s efforts contributed to Republicans’ decision in 2011 to ban the funding provisions that were once slipped into spending bills.

Even so, the anti-earmark advocates are still at it. Citizens Against Government Waste’s 2016 pig book says Congress included 123 earmarks in spending bills for that year despite the ban. Worse yet, from the group’s perspective, the House and Senate no longer reveal who sponsored them.

Citizens Against Government Waste, however, continues to grade lawmakers in its annual scorecard. The most wasteful senator, it determined based on 16 votes he took on matters of fiscal prudence, was [Sherrod Brown](#), the Ohio Democrat, who voted opposite the position of Citizens Against Government Waste on all 16, the only senator to do so.

Citizens Against Government Waste deemed Brown “hostile” for, among his other votes, opposing the creation of a fiscal oversight board for debt-ridden Puerto Rico and another bill aimed at modernizing the handling of customs at the border, as well as a resolution that would have upended an Agriculture Department rule mandating catfish inspection.

The senators, all Democrats, who were determined to be slightly less wasteful than Brown all voted with the group on one of those. [Edward J. Markey](#) and [Elizabeth Warren](#) of Massachusetts, along with [Robert Menendez](#) of New Jersey, voted to quash the catfish rule, while [Richard J. Durbin](#) of Illinois and

## Members

[Sen. Brown \(D-Ohio\)](#) | Political MoneyLine Profile

[Sen. Durbin \(D-Ill.\)](#) | Political MoneyLine Profile

[Sen. Hirono \(D-Hawaii\)](#) | Political MoneyLine Profile

[Sen. Markey \(D-Mass.\)](#) | Political MoneyLine Profile

[Sen. Menendez \(D-N.J.\)](#) | Political MoneyLine Profile

[Sen. Merkley \(D-Ore.\)](#) | Political MoneyLine Profile

[Sen. Schatz \(D-Hawaii\)](#) | Political MoneyLine Profile

[Sen. Warren \(D-Mass.\)](#) | Political MoneyLine Profile

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Hawaii's **Mazie K. Hirono** and **Brian Schatz** agreed that Puerto Rico should have a fiscal control board. **Jeff Merkley** of Oregon was with Citizens Against Government Waste on the customs overhaul.



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