Across our nation, Americans view earmarks as a signature example of Washington's out-of-control spending and waste. They are tired of the borrowing and spending and they have demanded a change. Sadly, there have been many instances where the flawed earmarking process has led to waste and abuse. All over the North State, I have heard from many, many citizens that Congress needs to take immediate steps toward reducing spending and ensuring that our children and grandchildren don't inherit a mountain of debt. Today I joined House Republicans in continuing a ban earmarks during the 112th Congress, and I'm pleased that the Senate Republicans have affirmed this stance. While this is only a first step in the right direction of returning to fiscal responsibility and ending business as usual in Washington, it is an important one. We have a lot of work to do to tackle our debt crisis and skyrocketing spending, and I look forward to working toward responsible solutions that will grow our economy, create jobs and get our nation back to a balanced budget.