

Hanna Amendment bars House members from leasing luxury vehicles

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The House of Representatives this afternoon passed legislation to cut \$6 billion in spending and keep the federal government running through the end of the fiscal year.

U.S. Rep. Richard Hanna voted in favor of H.R. 2055, the Omnibus Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2012 Conference Report. The bill makes responsible spending cuts overall, and at the same time invests in critical and important programs of relevance to upstate New York and the nation.

Hanna released this statement today:

"This is a responsible bill which keeps our government running and averts a shutdown. We're funding our military, taking care of our veterans, and giving our troops a well-earned pay raise. We're also taking care of the most needy among us, and increasing child care funding for states to help working families.

"The conversation in Washington has changed. We've now cut spending for two years in a row. Before I got to Congress the spending bills had 10,000 earmarks that cost taxpayers \$10 billion. This year there are zero earmarks.

"I voted to cut Congress' own budget for two fiscal years in a row. We've cut funding for my office by more than 10 percent. Just like Upstate New Yorkers, we're doing more with less, and proving to be efficient.

"Overall, this legislation is major progress toward fiscal responsibility and spending restraint."

Hanna bans luxury leases

The bill includes an amendment Hanna inserted to ban members of Congress from leasing luxury vehicles on the taxpayer dime. Before the Hanna Amendment was adopted, there was no cap on how much members could each month on cars for themselves.

"We do not need to be spending taxpayer dollars leasing luxury vehicles," Hanna said. "If Senators can get by without car leases, members of the People's House can get by with less expensive vehicles, too.

"This is a step to make sure elected representatives better live by the standard of fiscal responsibility that we try to set for the nation. I'm glad that this practice will be put to an end."

Appropriations Committee Quick Facts

Fiscal Year 2011: Nearly \$78 billion saved compared to the President's request

Fiscal Year 2012: \$98 billion will be saved compared to the President's request.

History of Earmarks

Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations bills: 10,000

Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations bills: 8,000

Fiscal Year 2011 Continuing Resolution and Appropriations bills: 0