

I voted Yes on H.R. 5855, the Homeland Security Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013.

This annual legislative vehicle provides funding for the Department of Homeland Security in order to strengthen our nation's homeland security and border protection efforts. This fiscally-responsible bill reduces overall government spending by almost \$500 million to provide relief to Upstate taxpayers while simultaneously ensuring our most important homeland security initiatives are properly maintained. For example, this bill funds the largest number of Border Patrol agents and Customs and Border Protection officers in history, and funds initiatives to counter human trafficking, construct new border fencing, and protect our nation's infrastructure and technology networks.

The bill provides \$5.5 billion for emergency disaster relief funding to address natural disasters such as Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee that brought sudden devastation to Upstate and the Southern Tier last year. In addition, H.R. 5855 maintains funding for fire department and emergency responder grants for equipment, training and safety programs to ensure that our emergency management services remain prepared and equipped. As the work done at Rome Lab demonstrates, cyber-security is increasingly important to our national security, and this legislation also includes a boost in funding for a new initiative to improve Federal Network Security to protect against and prevent cyber-attacks and foreign espionage. During this tenth anniversary of the Department of Homeland Security's creation, this bill rightly provides fiscal discipline, rigorous oversight, and support for our nation's most important homeland security programs.

The bill was approved by a vote of 234 - 182.