

I voted Yes on H.R. 5882, the Legislative Branch Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2013.

This legislation provides annual funding for the House of Representatives, support agencies of Congress, visitor services, and Capitol complex operations and maintenance. Specifically, this bill provides \$3.3 billion for these functions in Fiscal Year 2013 – which represents a \$34 million cut below last year's level. Just as taxpayers and businesses in upstate New York are tightening their belts – so too should Congress itself. Therefore, H.R. 5882 rightly continues Congressional spending cuts initiated in January 2011. Since I took office I have voted to cut the House's budget – including my own – by 10.5 percent, saving taxpayers millions of dollars.

I am also pleased this bill continues a provision I authored last year to ban Members of Congress from spending \$1,000 or more per month on luxury vehicle leases. While it may be hard to believe, this was recently a regular practice, and I am encouraged by our progress in cracking down on abuses of taxpayer dollars on perks like this one.

Overall, H.R. 5882 cuts millions of dollars in unnecessary spending while still providing for the safe and efficient operations of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Capitol complex.

The bill was approved by a vote of 307 – 102.