

## 1/5/2007 - The First Days of the 110th Congress

Congressman Albio Sires (NJ-13) votes for transparency before special interests

For Immediate Release

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Washington, D.C. - Shortly after being sworn into the 110th Congress, Representative Albio Sires got to work along with his colleagues on the first 100 legislative hours. Opening the agenda was an aggressive ethics reform package that bans gifts from lobbyists and requires full disclosure of congressionally directed projects.

The Honest Leadership and Open Government package passed in the US House of Representatives eliminating secret deals between legislators and special interests. Earmark reform will implement full disclosure requiring members to certify that the funds will be used for the public good.

"Throughout history, there has been an ongoing struggle to put the people's interest ahead of special interests," said Congressman Sires. "With this legislation we put an end to this age-old struggle. The 110th Congress has been given a mandate by the people to make sure their's are the voices that are heard."

This morning, ethics reform continued. The Civility and Fiscal Responsibility package prohibits holding votes open for the sole purpose of affecting the outcome. In addition, pay-as-you-go budgeting forces congress to act as all Americans do by balancing their check books.

"As we start the 110th Congress, we must govern our own chamber in a manner that represents the interests of our constituents." That is why I proudly supported these measures.