Rep. Israel adopted a policy of only seeking federal appropriations for non-profit and local government earmarks in 2009

Washington, DC – On Wednesday, the House Appropriations Committee announced a ban on for-profit earmarks, adopting a policy instituted by Rep. Steve Israel (D – N.Y.) last year.

"Last year my office stopped submitting for-profit appropriations requests. Since 2007, Democrats have enacted unprecedented earmark reforms, and for me ending the practice of seeking for-profit earmarks was the logical next step. I'm pleased that the entire House of Representatives will now be adopting my policy. It will reduce the number of earmarks overall, while not putting the future of important non-profit and local government programs at risk," said Rep. Israel.

Additionally, the Appropriations Committee will require agency Inspectors General to audit at least 5% of all earmarks directed to non-profit entities.

The Committee is also establishing an online "one-stop" link to all House Members' appropriations earmark requests to enable the public to easily view them. Rep. Israel prominently discloses all appropriations requests on his House of Representatives website.

Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey and incoming Defense Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman Norm Dicks also announced that a program will be established to provide an opportunity for businesses – especially small start-up companies with no inside Pentagon connections – to present their good ideas and products to the Defense Department.

Rep. Israel serves on the House Appropriations Committee and the Subcommittees on Energy and Water, State and Foreign Operations, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs.