



December 15, 2006

Dear Friends:

This week, I received a phone call from Speaker-designate Pelosi informing me that I will receive an assignment on the U.S. House Appropriations Committee in the 110th Congress. This assignment provides an important opportunity to serve Minnesota by ensuring federal tax dollars are invested wisely and responsibly to keep our country and our families strong. [\[link to press release\]](#)

Earlier this week, incoming House and Senate Appropriations Chairs Rep. David Obey (D-WI) and Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV) jointly announced a moratorium on special-interest earmarks until the Democratic Congress passes new ethics reforms next year. In addition, the incoming Chairmen will maintain current funding levels for 9 of the 11 spending bills left unfinished by the outgoing Republican-led Congress until the beginning of next fiscal year on October 1, 2007. The decision made by Rep. Obey and Sen. Byrd will help to restore an accountable, above-board, transparent process for funding decisions and put an end to the abuses that have harmed the credibility of Congress.

Here in Minnesota, we are all proud of our high quality public schools, and it is a pleasure to highlight those that earn accolades for their success at educating our children. Mendota Elementary School is being honored as one of 200 Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education on Monday, December 18th. I commend School District 197 Superintendent Jay Haugen, Principal Steven Goldade, the teachers, staff, students and all the parents that make Mendota Elementary great.



Rep. McCollum thanks Christa Pugh for interning in her Washington office during the Fall of 2006. Christa, who is from Rochester, Minnesota, is a student at Georgetown University. [Click here](#) to learn about internship opportunities for 2007 in both her Saint Paul and Washington offices.

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Betty McCollum
Serving Minnesota's Fourth Congressional District

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