Washington, D.C. - Congresswoman Melissa Bean made the following statement in response to President Obama's plan to reform the earmarking process, and a corresponding statement from House leaders:

"I am proud to stand with President Obama in strong support of earmark reform," said Rep. Melissa Bean (D-IL). "While district perspective is vital to ensuring federal spending is targeted to local priorities effectively, I have been an advocate for greater transparency and accountability since I came to Congress. I applaud the President's commitment to fiscal responsibility and better return on taxpayer's investments on American tax dollars."