WASHINGTON (11 March) - U.S. Rep. Gus M. Bilirakis (R-Fla.), representing Florida's 9th Congressional District, today issued the following statement after the House Republican Conference adopted a unilateral moratorium on earmarks:

"Middle-class families and small businesses across Florida are making sacrifices when it comes to their own budgets, yet Washington continues to spend trillions of taxpayer dollars on bailouts and pet projects. This out of control spending is an insult to every hard-working taxpayer, and today I am proud to join with my House Republican colleagues to adopt an immediate ban on all earmarks."