Washington, DC - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement regarding President-elect Barack Obama's nomination of U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) as Secretary of State.

"New York's loss is the country's gain. For the past eight years, Senator Clinton has honorably served the people of New York in the U.S. Senate. Senator Clinton is a friend and has been a dear ally in the Senate. She has been an advocate and strong leader for a wide range of critical issues facing our state and nation -- from economic development, to health care, and of course international affairs.

"While those of us in New York will no longer have her as our senator, we, along with all Americans, will have her as our secretary of state. With a strong record of accomplishment, Senator Clinton is well-positioned to navigate the many complex dynamics around the world in an effort to promote and expand peace, human rights, justice, equality, and freedom for all. Difficult times demand strong leadership and Senator Clinton will undoubtedly meet that demand as she serves our nation as secretary of state. I am very much looking forward to the dawning of a new day under the strong and thoughtful leadership of President-elect Obama and Senator Clinton."