*Washington, DC - In the first of several oil company earnings reports, Exxon Mobil Corp. today said its earnings rose 69 percent in the first quarter this year. Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) released the following statement in response, calling for an end to big oil subsidies.*

"Big Oil is robbing America's middle class. These huge corporations are seeing profits rise by nearly 70 percent as middle class families continue to struggle in a tight economy. Small businesses are having to cut back instead of creating jobs, food prices are rising, working people can't afford to drive to their jobs, and all the while fat cat oil men are sitting on a huge pile of money courtesy of obscenely high oil prices and huge taxpayer subsidies and giveaways totaling nearly $100 billion. This is completely unacceptable.

"Congress needs to act immediately to finally eliminate these ridiculous subsidies for America's most profitable industry. I've been working to do this for years. Continuing these giveaways is a slap in the face to American taxpayers who are already getting ripped off every day at the gas pump."