Washington, DC -- U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) and U.S. Senator Charles E. Schumer (D-NY) announced today that they secured $2 million in congressionally-directed funding for the Cyber Attack Mitigation and Exploitation Laboratory (CAMEL) Program, which will be conducted by local defense firm, CACI, in coordination with the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome. These funds are included in a Fiscal Year 2009 funding bill, which passed the House of Representatives today.

"The Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome is a critical component of our local economy – responsible for the direct employment of 1,700 men and women," **said Arcuri, who also secured $1.9 million for the CAMEL project last year**. "The Mohawk Valley is home to some of the nation's most promising high-tech research and development companies that are on the frontlines of our defense against cyber attacks on our computer networks. I will continue to fight to secure the federal resources to grow our federal defense facilities in Rome and create good-paying jobs."

"This is good news for the local economy, jobs and our nation's military," **Schumer said**. "By investing in the manufacturing of cutting-edge technology in Rome we are boosting jobs in the region, while also working to equip our troops with the critical resources to defend our country."

"We greatly appreciate the support Congressman Arcuri and Senator Schumer are providing to create and keep high technology jobs in the Mohawk Valley," **said Ken McDowell, CACI Site Manager, Rome, NY**. "Both the Congressman and Senator have championed local efforts to build a solid and enduring local Cyber Technology base, with great results."

The funds secured by Arcuri and Schumer are included in The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009 (H.R. 2638), which passed the House of Representatives by a bipartisan majority of 370 to 58.

CAMEL III is a proposed government and industry initiative to provide active defense against Cyber Attacks on government information networks, military command and control systems and critical infrastructure. This program is designed to complement and leverage Research and Development work performed at the Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome and commercial industry. Funds will be used by CACI to continue cataloging new types of malicious software, and identify signature features in order to track down origin and the designer.

“We’ve all fallen victim to a computer virus or malicious software at one time or another, but the threat to our government and military computer networks is even greater,” Arcuri continued. “CACI and Rome Lab are literally leading the charge in identifying thousands of strains of new malicious software being developed every month so we can protect our nation from the very real threat of a devastating cyber attack.”

According to the Director of the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), Lieutenant General Croom, in testimony before the House Armed Services Committee last year, Department of Defense communications networks are under constant and increasing attack. The number of Cyber Attack incidents grew from 16,000 in 2004 to more than 30,000 in 2006.

Last year, Arcuri secured $1.9 million for the CAMEL II Program in the Fiscal Year 2008 Defense Appropriations bill.

###