

**The Honorable Constance A. Morella**  
U.S. Representative of Maryland (1987–2003)

**Special Exhibit: A Century of Women in Congress**

**Excluded from Appropriations**

Representative Morella reflects on the inner politics of committee assignments.  
*Interview recorded June 16, 2015*

I, I, of course, originally I said I wanted Appropriations. And, and then I thought, well, I want something that's going to help my constituency. And so, again, I was advised, "You know, you've got a lot of federal employees and they also deal with high-tech in all the areas. And so, you should do something that's connected with, with the federal employees." So, I did like that assignment. And the Science assignment worked out well for me, too. It's interesting because later I did say something about, "Well now, I think I would like to go to Appropriations." You know the answer I got? "Connie, we want you to continue to get elected because you're doing such a great job. If you were on Appropriations you'd have to make some really tough decisions that would, that would anger your constituency." I mean, that was a cop-out, but, but it was—the concept was that I would have to vote with my party and not break lines. And so, that was what that was, and I thought, "Okay, I'll fight it in my own way."