

For example, it includes \$910 million to defray firefighting costs and emergency fire-prevention efforts, and to help recover lands devastated by recent fires.

This has been one of the worst wildfire seasons on record, and while Colorado has not been as hard hit we have not been immune. Nationally, nearly 5 million acres have burned, costing over \$1.8 billion for Federal wildfire suppression activities, which is \$700 million above the average suppression cost.

So, it is appropriate that that measure includes a total of \$610 million for wildfire suppression activities, including sufficient funds to fully repay all agency operating and construction funds which were previously borrowed to support emergency suppression activities earlier this summer. This repayment will allow the Forest Service and the Interior Department to use contractors and staff to revive important projects which were delayed by the budget shortfalls earlier this year.

In addition, this legislation includes a total of \$175 million for urgently needed hazardous fuels reduction projects all over the Nation, including extensive areas in Colorado and other parts of the mountain west which are suffering unprecedented tree die-off from infestations of bark beetles and some other insects. Of this total, some \$125 million is for state and private activities and \$50 million for projects on national forests. Another \$100 million will be used for rehabilitation of burned areas, including \$75 million for the Forest service and \$25 million for the Interior Department, and another \$25 million is provided for firefighter retention.

Responding to the problems associated with insect infestations in Colorado's forests has been a high priority for me. I have worked with other members of our state's delegation on legislative proposals and have joined in efforts to secure increased funding for that purpose—so these parts of the bill are particularly welcome.

Further, as a member of the Armed Services Committee, I am also particularly glad to note that the FY09 Defense Department Appropriations bill included in this package puts our troops first.

It provides funds for necessary weapons and equipment and training, boosting funds particularly for the National Guard and Reserve; makes critical investments in the health of our troops, including \$300 million for traumatic brain injury and mental health; provides more than the president's request to improve army barracks and military hospitals; and compensates troops for every month their terms of service are involuntarily extended, also known as "stop loss." The bill also includes funding for important weapons systems and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance needs.

This legislation also provides FY09 funding for Defense Department military construction, including \$474 million for military construction projects at Fort Carson, as well as \$65 million for construction at the Pueblo Chemical Depot, \$4.9 million for land acquisition at Peterson AFB, \$18 million for Colorado National Guard readiness centers in Denver and Grand Junction, \$3 million for a satellite pharmacy and \$4.2 million for Alert Crew Headquarters at Buckley Air Force Base, and \$18 million to upgrade academic facilities at the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Finally, this legislation includes FY09 funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs—

providing \$47.6 billion for veterans' medical care, claims processors, and facility improvements, including \$20 million for the new Fitzsimons VA hospital. The bill makes substantial increases in mental health and substance abuse programs, provides veterans with advanced prosthetics, provides additional resources for veterans who live in places where the VA does not offer sufficient services, increase the gas mileage reimbursement rate to 41.5 cents per mile, and improves access to care for veterans in rural areas.

In conclusion, I have decided the bill's merits—which include the fact that it will allow all federal agencies to continue their work until the next Congress can complete action on funding legislation for the remainder of this fiscal year—outweigh its defects, and I will vote for it.

TRIBUTE TO DENNIS OLEJNICZAK AND GENE SCHULTZ

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Gene Schultz of Lansing, Iowa and Dennis Olejniczak of Decorah, Iowa for their service and dedication to their schools' baseball teams.

Together, their record is astounding: more than 2,500 wins, 12 state championships and 24 tournament appearances in a combined 79 years of high school baseball. But what is more interesting and incredible is that Gene Schultz and Dennis Olejniczak coach at rival high schools 35 miles apart.

Although Iowa has multiple seasons of high school baseball, which is one of the reasons for the high numbers, it truly comes down to their coaching philosophies. North Fayette's Dan Hovden, said this of Schultz and Olejniczak, "They both have a high regard for the game. They put the team above themselves and obviously it shows up in the end."

I thank and congratulate both Gene Schultz and Dennis Olejniczak for their hard work and commitment to coaching high school baseball. It is a great honor to represent Gene and Dennis in the United States Congress, and I wish them the best.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of, H.R. 2638—The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009.

A. Rivet Joint ISR Network Integration (0305207F 192 MANNED RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEMS.) The entity to receive funding for this project is L-3 Integrated Systems, located at 10001 Jack Finney Blvd., Greenville, TX 75402. The funding would be

used to provide networking upgrades that will enable it to fully collaborate with a variety of Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) nodes so that more effective projections of threat environments can be made.

B. PrePreg Thickness Variability Reduction Program (0603680F 29 MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.) The entity to receive funding for this project is Cytec Engineered Materials, located at 4300 Jackson Street, Greenville, TX 78402. The funding would be used to reduce the variability of prepreg thickness to +/- 1 percent, which is a substantial improvement over even foreign prepreg capabilities. Reducing variation significantly complements and enhances the advancements expected to be made in the areas of tooling and manufacturing. These achievements are crucial for Cytec's military and commercial partners.

C. Stryker Common Active Protection System (APS) Radar (0603653A 62 ADVANCED TANK ARMAMENT SYSTEMS (ATAS).) The entity to receive funding for this project is Raytheon Network Centric Systems, located at 2501 West University, McKinney, TX 75070. APS is an externally mounted vehicle protection system that identifies, discriminates and intercepts RPGs, mortars, antitank guided missiles and artillery projectiles after they are launched toward a combat vehicle. The system consists of the Multi-Function Radio Frequency (MFRF) radar, launchers, fire control processors and countermeasures.

Please see attached for financial plan of each project. Neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in these projects.

FINANCE PLAN

Requesting Member: Rep. RALPH M. HALL.

Bill Number: H.R. 2638.

Account: Air Force, RDT&E, Line 192, PE 0305207F, Manned Reconnaissance Systems.

Project Name: Rivet Joint ISR Network Integration.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: L-3 Communications Integrated Systems.

Address of Requesting Entity: 10001 Jack Finney Boulevard, Greenville, TX 75403.

Anticipated sources of funding for the duration of the project: Additional funding would be provided by the Air Force to procure this capability after successful demonstration of the developmental prototype, in their future years budget requests.

Percent and source of required matching funds: N/A, this program is providing a good or service to the Department of Defense.

Justification for use of federal taxpayer dollars: The RIVET JOINT will provide networking upgrades that will enable it to fully collaborate with a variety of Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) nodes so that more effective projections of threat environments can be made. Detailed analysis of RIVET JOINT operations shows that full integration of networked capabilities will result in a 25 percent improvement in critical Threat Analysis Measures of Effectiveness for priority dual-use commercial communication threat environments. The specific threats that will be addressed by this system upgrade are the highest priority threats to ongoing military operations.

Detailed finance plan: \$750,000 is for Non-Recurring Engineering Design and Development; \$750,000 is for Manufacture Design and Production of Networked Speech, Geo-Location, and Reach-back Processing and Data

Base Access Applications; and \$500,000 is for Labor, Materials, and System Installation and Integration on one Rivet Joint aircraft.

RECIPIENT REQUEST CERTIFICATION FORM

None of the funding requested will be used for a new building, program, or project that has been named for a sitting Member of Congress. If the building, program, or project is already named after a sitting Member of Congress, please state when that naming occurred.

None of the funding requested will be used to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark.

For requests where the receiving entity is not a unit of federal, state or local government, or where the entity receiving the funding will not be providing support to a Federal, state, or local government, or will not be providing research, the requesting entity is to provide matching funds including in-kind contributions of 5 percent or more above statutory requirement.

Attachment of detailed finance plan must include: anticipated sources of the funding for the duration of the project; percent and source of required matching fund; and justification for use of federal taxpayer dollars.

Name of person certifying: Steven C. Speak.

Title of person certifying: President.

Project name: Prepreg Thickness Variability Reduction Program.

Legal name of entity making request: Cytec Engineered Materials.

Address: 4300 Jackson Street, Greenville, TX 78420.

RECIPIENT REQUEST CERTIFICATION FORM—DETAILED FINANCE PLAN

Project Name: Prepreg Thickness Variability Reduction Program.

Requested by Congressman RALPH HALL (TX-4).

Total Requested funding FY09: \$1.6 million.

Justification of the use of Federal funds: This program will reduce the variability of Carbon fiber prepreg, the raw material that provides the basis for strong durable, light-weight composite aircraft structures. It is predominantly used by the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and the airline industry to fabricate aircraft structures such as wing skins. A major impediment to assembling composite aircraft structural components is the dimensional mismatch of composite parts which may produce rough edges, overlays, or gaps between parts. Much of this mismatch is due to variations that occur in component manufacturing. Funding has been applied to efforts to reduce variation in component manufacturing by the Air Force and the prime contractors. Unfortunately, funds have not been directed towards efforts to reduce variation by refining the raw material—carbon fiber prepreg. Lower prepreg variation will avoid the purchase of costly precision machining equipment by program partners, estimated at \$80 million, to mitigate surface and component part deviations. Federal funding is justified in this effort to reducing the variability of prepreg to help the Joint Strike Fighter program and others meet the goal of reducing the overall variability of composite parts. This is vital to reduce the weight of aircraft, as well as to promote optimal stealth capabilities.

DETAILED BUDGET FOR VARIATION REDUCTION DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Materials:

Resin and prepreg production, production trials, feedstock variations, customer shop trials, and packaging supplies: \$100K.

Deliverables:

(1) Develop and demonstrate the necessary equipment and processes for production.

(2) Document aerospace production control documents (PCD) for JSF Program technical approval and signature.

Labor:

Scientist, technicians, mechanics, testing personnel, and production operators: \$160K.

Deliverables:

(1) Direct the work to be done, optimize process, execute plan scale up work.

(2) Ensure best practice sharing of manufacturing engineering development.

Testing:

Fiber testing, production of composites, and testing of the composite coupons: \$1130K.

Deliverables:

(1) Generate meaningful composite material data, demonstrating alignment to heritage mechanical test data bases.

(2) Review data and correlate to end-use application.

Contract Administration: \$30K.

Overhead and Contract Management: \$100K.

Contingency/Miscellaneous Travel, part-time resources, contingent raw material needs: \$80K.

Total Budget: \$1600K.

STRYKER COMMON ACTIVE PROTECTION SYSTEM (APS) RADAR

Bill Number and Account: H.R. 2638, RDT&E, Army, Line 62.

Name and Address of Recipient: Raytheon Company, 2501 West University Drive, McKinney, TX, 75070.

Program Description/Use of FY09 Funding: Active Protection System (APS) is an externally mounted vehicle protection system that identifies, discriminates and intercepts rocket propelled grenades (RPGs), mortars, antitank guided missiles and artillery projectiles after they are launched toward a combat vehicle. The system consists of the Multi-Function Radio Frequency (MFRF) radar, launchers, fire control processors and countermeasures. In March, 2006, the Army competitively awarded a contract with two options for APS. Option A for the Short Range Countermeasure is in development and will integrate RPG protection into current combat vehicles, beginning with Stryker. Option B will address the longer range threats and is a sub-system to the Hit Avoidance Suite for the Future Combat Systems (FCS) fleet of Manned Ground Vehicles (MGV). In 2007, the Army accelerated the requirement for Stryker by designating it a critical component of Spin Out 2, the second increment of FCS technologies to be fielded to the Current Force in the 2010–2012 timeframe. Due to budget constraints, the FY09 President's budget request does not contain funding to support APS integration onto Stryker.

The additional FY09 funding of \$1.6M will allow ruggedization of the Environmental Control Unit (ECU) for tactical application (e.g., submergence) on Stryker, as well as software and hardware development for system command and control, including the man-machine interface.

Anticipated Sources of Funding: APS development is funded under the FCS MGV budget line, but there is no dedicated funding to sup-

port APS development for Stryker in FY08 or FY09. The Army originally requested funding in FY08 for Stryker APS but has since reallocated the funding to support power management and the other upgrades Stryker needs to accommodate FCS Spin Outs. Additional funding is anticipated through future years' budgets, but details of the 10–15 POM are unknown at this time.

Matching Funds: N/A.

Justification for Use of Taxpayer Dollars: This project aims to accelerate delivery of a validated military need intended to enhance protection of Army soldiers and vehicles. As a priority military initiative, this program will be funded through Federal expenditures.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ACT TO SAVE AMERICA'S FORESTS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer the Act to Save America's Forests.

Our forests are an extraordinary natural resource which must be preserved. Unfortunately, aggressive logging practices on Federal land have eliminated much of our Nation's remaining forests and their native biological diversity. This is a sensible bill to limit aggressive logging and protect our forests and our environment.

The Act to Save America's Forests bans clearcutting in all Federal forests. It also ends logging in the last virgin forests, roadless areas, and other core regions of the Federal forest system. The bill allows for limited and ecologically sustainable logging in lands that have already been logged outside of core forest areas.

An important provision of the bill transfers jurisdiction of the Giant Sequoia National Monument from the Forest Service to the Park Service to manage and protect this important ecological asset. The Forest Service has continued to allow logging of the sequoias, which is not acceptable, and the courts finally put a stop to this egregious practice. My constituent, Martin Litton, has fought tirelessly for decades to protect the magnificent giant sequoia trees and the congressional action proposed in the Act to Save America's Forests will ensure their long term protection.

This year, the bill includes a new provision for the Department of Interior to conduct environmental surveys to identify ecosystems not currently included in our national park system. These studies will identify needs to ensure that our national parks will preserve as much natural diversity as possible.

Preserving our forests not only ensures that we will maintain the natural beauty of our Nation, it will help mitigate climate change by reducing carbon emissions. Forests are an important carbon storage medium and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimated that deforestation accounts for 20–25 percent of annual greenhouse gas emissions. In 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency estimated that forests in the U.S. absorbed enough carbon dioxide to offset 11 percent of our country's emissions. Logging reduces the capacity of our forests to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, so unless we act