

This bill offers a unique opportunity to provide hundreds of millions of dollars of desperately needed assistance at little cost to federal taxpayers. For Virginia localities, it is estimated that it will bring in between 65–70 million dollars in revenue during the first year in the program. From its participation in the Federal Offset Program, for FY 2008, the Commonwealth of Virginia received over \$17 million dollars in offsets of federal income tax refunds and an additional \$5 million in offsets of the tax stimulus checks. This legislation has the official support of the National Association of Counties, the Government Finance Officers Association, the National League of Cities, the Treasurers' Association of Virginia, the United States Conference of Mayors, the Association of Public Treasurers of the United States and Canada, and the Conference of State Court Administrators.

This concept of an offset originated as a way to assist states with securing child support arrearages. It was expanded to allow states to submit other delinquent claims against an individual's federal tax return. This program has been very successful for the states. Now this bill would expand its successful idea and concept to local governments in all states. Doing so could potentially result in several billion dollars annually for local governments by effecting the collection of delinquent taxes. Under this legislation, the following order of priority for payment of an offset would be: (1) past-due federal income tax, (2) past-due state child support, (3) past-due federal government agency debt, (4) past-due state income tax, and (5) local government tax. The state taxing authority for each state would act as the clearinghouse for the local government tax debts, so this will not be an additional burden to Financial Management Services (which is a division of the United States Department of the Treasury administers the Federal Offset Program).

This is a bipartisan, good-government bill. If the legislation is passed, it would allow federal, state, and local governments to work together. Good citizens, who pay their taxes, will appreciate that the federal government and the state government are assisting localities to help local government collect from the delinquents. Each citizen should share in paying his fair share of taxes.

CONGRATULATING TRIXIE
JOHNSON ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Trixie Johnson on her recent retirement and to commemorate her dedicated service to the Southern California and to the nation throughout her distinguished career. Johnson served as the Director of Research for the Mineta Transportation Institute ("MTI") and where she worked for ten years before retiring this past May.

MTI was established by Congress in 1991 as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act and is located at San Jose State University (SJSU). This institution conducts research, education, and information and technology transfers specializing in transportation policy and management.

Ms. Johnson led a research program at MTI that brought together faculty and student researchers from SJSU, along with other academic institutions around the country, and the private sector to advance the body of knowledge in transportation policy and management from an intermodal perspective. In addition to publishing innovative reports and research findings, Ms. Johnson was deeply committed to recruiting, engaging, and training the nation's next generation of transportation planners and leaders.

Before joining the Mineta Transportation Institute in July 1999, Trixie Johnson served the full limit of two terms on the San Jose City Council—from 1991 through 1998. Due to Ms. Johnson's extensive experience, she has been recognized as a land use and environmental specialist by her peers. Her council service included two years as Vice Mayor and several years as chairperson of the city's Transportation, Development and Environment Committee.

Ms. Johnson has a long record of public service that included serving as chair of the Environmental Quality Committee and member of the Board of Directors for the League of California Cities; vice-chair of the Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee of the National League of Cities; and member of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District Board.

While her passionate work on transportation issues throughout her career will surely be missed, the many students and colleagues she has inspired will carry on her work as the nation seeks solutions to the transportation challenges of the 21st century.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate Trixie Johnson on her retirement, and wish her and her family the best of luck in this next chapter of their lives.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Department of Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Requesting Member: Congressman TODD RUSSELL PLATTS (PA–19)

Bill Number: H.R. 2996—Department of the Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Act

Account: STAG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: York City Sewer Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 1701 Blackbridge Road, York, PA 17402

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding: The York City Sewer Authority is a public, municipal authority providing wastewater services for residential, commercial, and industrial users in an eight municipality service area. The York City Sewer Authority would use this funding to construct a new headworks facility, which includes the replacement of the building's heating and ventilation system and replacement of the activated carbon bed in the

building's odor control system. This is a good use of taxpayer funds because the combined improvements provide the most cost effective solution for updating infrastructure for the authority's residents and businesses.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks as well as in accordance with Clause 9 of Rule XXI, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2647, the National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman BILL POSEY

Bill Number: H.R. 2647

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Defensewide

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Soneticon

Address of Requesting Entity: 1045 South John Rodes Boulevard, West Melbourne, Florida 32904

Description of Request: This technology is important to helping our military and would be used for enhancement of a currently installed system for continued operations. \$3 million is provided for this program.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I rise today to submit the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of the Interior-Environment Appropriation.

The following earmark was requested by my office and is listed for funding in this bill:

City of Galt Wastewater Treatment Plant

Requesting Member: DANIEL E. LUNGREN

Bill Number: HR 2996

Account: EPA/STAG Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Project

Requesting Agency: City of Galt

Agency Address: 495 Industrial Drive, Galt, CA 95632

Amount: \$500,000

Description: The City of Galt is being forced to upgrade their existing wastewater treatment facility as a result of increased Federal water quality mandates. The new wastewater treatment facility will put Galt in to compliance with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). NPDES is the Federal system for the issuance of permits under Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, and many of the stringent NPDES permit requirements are based on National Toxics Rule (NTR). The NTR is an Environmental Protection Agency regulation that established numeric water quality criteria for priority inorganic pollutants for fourteen States and jurisdictions, including California,

into compliance with Section 303 (c)(2)(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Federal mandates dictate an increased number of contaminants for which the City must treat wastewater. The existing WWTP was not designed to meet most of the new standards, and therefore must be upgraded. The City is subject to mandatory Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) fines until such time as the project is completed. This project will enable the City of Galt to come into compliance with these Federal mandates.

This project represents an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as it responds to EPA mandates to improve wastewater treatment, to provide mitigation against a wider array of water contaminants, in a community acutely impacted by the capital demands of such undertaking.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION PROVIDING STRONG LAND PROTECTION INCENTIVES

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, more than 2 million farms make up America's rural landscape. Ninety-eight percent of these farms are owned by individuals, family partnerships, and family corporations, producing about 86 percent of U.S. agricultural products sold.

The most significant asset held by many of these farmers is their land. In some cases, when the owner of the farm dies, surviving family members must sell portions of the farm to cover their estate tax costs. Today I am introducing legislation to help ensure that families are not forced to sell the farm and that their land resources are available for agricultural and conservation use by future generations.

In 1997, in order to encourage the conservation of sensitive lands and farms, Congress enacted an estate tax exclusion for land placed under a conservation easement. 26 USC 2031(c). That law caps the exclusion at \$500,000. Given the significant rise in land values over the past decade, especially for agricultural regions near urbanizing areas, that cap is now too low to provide a meaningful incentive to many farmers.

My legislation updates and increases the exclusion to \$5 million. By increasing the current cap on the property value that can be ex-

cluded from an estate when the land is protected by a conservation easement from \$500,000 to \$5,000,000 (and by raising the exclusion percentage from 40 percent to 50 percent, this bill will encourage significant additional protection of farmland across our country.

The voluntary placement of a conservation easement on private land is a very effective and successful tool for protecting and conserving our nation's open spaces and sensitive lands. As the American Farmland Trust has written, "We strongly believe that the proper incentives are the most effective way of encouraging landowners to conserve land." This legislation provides strong land protection incentives and will result in the preservation of America's vital farm and ranchlands.

HONORING MR. JOHN GAMBLE

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a respected leader of Southwest Colorado, Mr. John Gamble of Durango. Mr. Gamble has served the community of Southwest Colorado with distinction for 24 years and is announcing his retirement this month.

In 1985, Mr. Gamble took over the new Southwest Colorado Volunteers of America in Durango, Colorado. Under his strong and steady leadership, the agency grew to provide many critical services to the community. At the beginning of his tenure, Mr. Gamble helped to open a domestic violence shelter to provide a safe haven for those in need. And, in the early 1990s, he led the effort to open a much needed homeless shelter. To fund all of these critical services, Mr. Gamble opened a very successful thrift store and led many colorful and profitable fundraising events. In his spare time, Mr. Gamble served on the Durango City Council, including a term as the mayor of that proud city.

Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. John Gamble for his outstanding service and dedication to the residents of Southwest Colorado. Mr. Gamble clearly has a heart for service and the skills to get the job done. His community is a better place due to his efforts. While we will all miss Mr. Gamble's service and leadership, I ask that you join me in wishing him well upon his retirement.

PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATE

[Tacoma Emergency Intertie Booster Station]

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2996, the Fiscal Year 2010 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

(1) \$333,000 for the City of Buckley, WA for an emergency intertie booster station.

Requesting Entity: City of Buckley, PO Box 1960, 933 Main Street, Buckley, WA 98321

Agency: Environmental Protection Agency

Account: STAG

Funding requested by: Rep. DAVE REICHERT

The City of Buckley will construct an emergency intertie booster station to allow the City to use water from the City of Tacoma in an emergency. The City of Tacoma water system in this area operates with a hydraulic grade line of 810 feet. The City of Buckley water system operates with a hydraulic grade line of 882 feet. Therefore the booster station is required to overcome a static head of approximately 72 feet. The City's largest water source is the S. Prairie Creek surface water source. The City's water right for this source is 900 gpm. To allow the system to operate effectively with the S. Prairie Creek source out of service, the booster station will have a capacity of 900 gpm. The booster station will be constructed in right-of-way in a location close to existing City of Buckley and City of Tacoma water infrastructure.

Finance Plan:

City of Buckley, Budget Details: This request is for federal funding in the amount of \$550,000 to construct an emergency water intertie and booster station between the City of Tacoma's transmission main and the City of Buckley's water system. As illustrated below in the engineering cost estimate, approximately, \$121,000 is for administration & engineering; and \$485,000 for construction. The City of Buckley is currently working on a major flood damaged repair to our primary transmission water main, but will be able to allocate \$57,000 as a match towards this project.

	Item	Quantity	Unit price	Amount
1.	Mobilization/Demobilization	Lump sum	\$34,000	\$34,000
2.	Site Work	Lump sum	15,000	15,000
3.	Erosion Control	Lump sum	2,500	2,500
4.	Locate Existing Utilities	Lump sum	2,000	2,000
5.	Intertie	Lump sum	25,000	25,000
6.	Booster Pumps (2 x 450 gpm)	Lump sum	32,000	32,000
7.	Booster Station Building (12' x 16')	Lump sum	52,000	52,000
8.	Piping, Valves, and Appurtenances	Lump sum	80,000	80,000
9.	Site Fencing	200 LF	28	5,600
10.	Surface Restoration	Lump sum	5,000	5,000
11.	Electrical, Telemetry, and Instrumentation	Lump sum	105,000	105,000
12.	Primary Power Service	Lump sum	15,000	15,000
	Subtotal			373,100
	Sales Tax (8.4%)			31,340
	Subtotal			404,440
	Contingency (20%)			81,060
	TOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST			485,500
	Engineering and Administrative Costs (25%)			121,000
	R.O.W., Easement and/or Land Acquisition			—