

H.R. 2997—Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

Requesting Member: Congressman GREGG HARPER

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service

Project Name: Genomics for Southern Crop Stress and Disease

Recipient and Address: Mississippi State University, P.O. Box 9800, Mississippi State, MS 39762

Amount: \$797,000

Description: Mississippi State will provide innovative genomics research solutions to address disease and climatic stressors in Mississippi's most valuable commodity crops. Forestry, Poultry, Catfish, and many more Mississippi industries will benefit from this research. Advances in understanding genomic responses to stress and disease are anticipated to have a beneficial impact on yields, costs, and environmental sustainability.

Requesting Member: Congressman GREGG HARPER

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service

Project Name: Biomass-based Energy Research Program

Recipient and Address: Mississippi State University, P.O. Box 9800, Mississippi State, MS 39762

Amount: \$839,000

Description: The Consortium is developing a unique gasification-catalytic process that utilizes all of the plant biomass, including the lignin, to produce liquid fuel. Mississippi State University and Oklahoma State University will cooperate in conducting technical and economic evaluation for the gasification-catalytic conversion process. Currently, MSU is conducting research to develop new catalysts to improve the conversion of syngas into liquid hydrocarbons.

Requesting Member: Congressman GREGG HARPER

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service

Project Name: Wood Utilization Project

Recipient and Address: Mississippi State University, P.O. Box 9680, Mississippi State, MS 39672

Amount: \$4,545,000

Description: Mississippi State University will conduct vital research and education on wood use to support the competitiveness of small and medium wood product manufacturers and the needs of the public through the Wood Utilization Research (WUR) Program. 12 Wood Utilization Research Centers at state universities across the U.S. will participate in this program. Mississippi has the potential to economically grow much larger volumes of wood. Focused research is essential to enhance the development of the current industry and to create new wood-based industries such as that of energy and chemicals.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. 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. 2647—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

I requested one project in H.R. 2647.

In coordination with thirteen other Members of Congress, I sent a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member requesting support for additional funding for the Army National Guard's H60 Black Hawk Helicopter modernization program. As a result of this letter, \$20.4 million was included in the Defense Authorization Act for this purpose. Army National Guard operational tempos are the highest they have ever been supporting the full spectrum of state missions including search and rescue, utility/lift, disaster relief, firefighting, medical evacuation, all while sustaining deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans. This high operational tempo is wearing out the National Guard H60 fleet much faster than planned and as a result of this request, we can ensure the National Guard has the tools and equipment they need to do their job.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as a part of H.R. 2997, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Act, 2010. The entity to receive funding is the Pennsylvania State University, 117 Old Main, University Park, PA 16802, in the amount of \$133,000. Funding will be used to increase field research/demonstration in order to increase farmer and farm advisor exposure to sustainable cropping system practices.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of language in the manager's amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 2647) requiring the Government Accountability Office to study the costs to states and localities that choose to cover the difference between a first responder's military salary and their city salary.

After the tragic events of September 11th, many New Yorkers heard the call to service and joined the Army, Marines, Navy, and Air Force in defense of their country. More than

11,000 New Yorkers went to Iraq and Afghanistan and 59 tragically lost their lives in defense of our country. Among these New Yorkers were the brave first responders who had already performed so admirably on that day, the police officers, fire fighters, and paramedics who put their lives at risk to help their fellow New Yorkers. In recognition of this further sacrifice, New York City revised its personnel code to maintain first responders' municipal salaries even during active duty military service.

Five hundred ten New York City municipal employees, including 76 firefighters and 293 police officers, are currently serving overseas, putting the total number of City first responders who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11 at over 2,000, with New York Police Department Officers comprising close to half of these. The combined salaries of these employees is over \$ 148 million dollars, and it is estimated that the city has recouped only \$59 million, costing the City over \$89 million. These financial costs are further compounded by lost man hours, over 800,000 in all. This lost manpower has disproportionately affected the New York City Police Department to the tune of over 472,000 days.

To explain this program better, let's take the hypothetical case of NYPD and Army Reserve Sergeant Smith. Sergeant Smith makes \$55,000 annually as an NYPD officer and his active duty salary is \$35,000. Being called to Iraq for a year-long tour of duty costs Sergeant Smith \$20,000. New York City's program continues Sergeant Smith's \$55,000 annual salary and Sergeant Smith would pay his military salary back to the City. Through New York City's policy, Sergeant Smith is made whole while still patriotically serving his country.

New York City is not alone in honoring its first responders who choose to serve overseas in this way. Boston, Chicago, Indianapolis, Phoenix, and San Jose have similar programs, and many states, including Ohio, Texas, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Washington have laws that provide full pay for all state and municipal employees serving on active duty. At this time, it is not known how many millions of dollars these programs are costing cities and states around the country. Through my amendment the GAO will study the costs incurred by local governments for picking up the costs for their employees serving on active duty. I would like to thank Chairman IKE SKELTON and Ranking Member BUCK MCKEON for accepting this amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, I missed the following votes: rollcall Nos. 478 and 479. If I had been able to make these votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 478. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 479.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Mr. KISSELL. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, I missed two rollcall votes as I was attending a meeting in North Carolina concerning my state's higher educational system. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall numbers 478 and 479.

HONORING T. MICHAEL NICHOLSON

HON. ERIC J.J. MASSA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Mr. MASSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor T. Michael Nicholson, a man who has suffered tremendous personal loss but has used it as inspiration to help others.

Michael at a young age, in a desire to help his community became a volunteer firefighter. He was only a junior in high school. He joined the Bushnell's Basin Volunteer Fire Department in the town of Perinton. Six months after joining he was struck by a car while directing traffic to a fire scene. Michael was severely injured and was given a 50% chance of living.

His legs were broken, his back was broken, and his skull was fractured. Michael was in a coma for three weeks which he was not expected to come out of.

The State of New York agreed to compensate Michael with eighty dollars a week for what they deemed partial disability.

However, the long term effects Michael suffered from prevented him from living a normal life and \$80 a week was insufficient to live on. He pled his case to an administration law judge with hopes of being allowed a total permanent disability status.

His request being denied, Michael was told, "If you want to do anything about this, then change the workers' compensation law."

So he did.

Using this as inspiration Michael has led a crusade to overhaul the way the workers compensation system treats firefighters. Against all odds he has scored victories in the State Senate and Assembly where a law was created to bring the weekly benefit rate up to \$400. This was a significant increase especially since some firefighters were trying to live off of \$25 a week.

On November 29th 1992 the United States Department of Justice created the Public Safety Officer Disability Benefit which awards federal benefits to any Public Safety Officer in the United States who is permanently disabled from an "in the line-of-injury" suffered in their community.

Disabled firefighters have Michael Nicholson to thank for this. With his hard work and drive he was able to fix what was unfair and it is for this reason I honor him

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as a part of H.R. 2997, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Act, 2010. The entity to receive funding is the Pennsylvania State University, 117 Old Main, University Park, PA 16802, in the amount of \$349,000. Funding will be used for a project at Penn State that has a goal of improving dairy farm profitability throughout the Commonwealth.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. 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. 2997, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman ADAM H. PUTNAM

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Project Funding Amount: \$300,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Hillsborough County/University of Florida

Address of Requesting Entity: University of Florida, Institute for Food and Agriculture Sciences, Post Office Box 110180, Gainesville, FL 32611-0180

Description of Request: The Hillsborough County—Ruskin Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory is a cooperative venture of Hillsborough County and the University of Florida. Research from the laboratory provides much needed science-based technologies in nutrition, reproduction, health, and water quality management issues for the tropical ornamental aquaculture industry, based primarily in the county.

Requesting Member: Congressman ADAM H. PUTNAM

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Project Funding Amount: \$1,217,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Florida

Address of Requesting Entity: University of Florida, Institute for Food and Agriculture Sciences, Post Office Box 110180, Gainesville, FL 32611-0180

Description of Request: For critical continuation and expansion of vital Citrus Greening and Citrus Canker research to improve technologies for treatment and detection, methods of movement and containment, and means to control and eliminate these devastating diseases.

Requesting Member: Congressman ADAM H. PUTNAM

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Project Funding Amount: \$6,677,000

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Florida

Address of Requesting Entity: University of Florida, Institute for Food and Agriculture Sciences, Post Office Box 110180, Gainesville, FL 32611-0180

Description of Request: The Tropical/Subtropical Agricultural Research (T-STAR) program conducts research and education for interdiction, eradication, and suppression of invasive plants, animals, insects and disease. The objective of this critical initiative is to develop strategies and tactics to stem the influx of invasive species into the United States to protect American agriculture.

Requesting Member: Congressman ADAM H. PUTNAM

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

Project Funding Amount: \$43.6 million

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Address of Requesting Entity: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250

Description of Request: Due to the rapidly spreading nature of citrus pests and disease and their enormous potential economic impact, it is important that the Federal government actively support a coordinated plan to control, suppress and prevent further spread of the Citrus Greening and Citrus Canker through the Citrus Health Response Plan.

U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK
OFFICE FUNDING

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3114, and commend the Chairman for his leadership in acting so swiftly to rectify this situation.

The U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, located in my District, is funded entirely by the user fees it collects; it does not draw any taxpayer funds from the general Treasury.

Like many other businesses and industries, the PTO has seen significant reductions in its revenues as a result of economic belt-tightening by its customers. In response, PTO has already enacted over \$140 million in budget cuts and cost-savings measures. PTO has instituted a hiring freeze, curtailed non-bargaining unit performance awards, stopped overtime for many workers and significantly reduced contracts, travel, supplies and other non-essential overhead expenses.

In the meantime, we must ensure that the USPTO can continue to maintain its personnel level and perform its critical mission of examining and granting patents that promote innovation and create jobs. As a result, a serious budget situation has developed. Absent adoption of this legislation approximately 9,000 patent office employees would be subject to furloughs during the last pay period of FY09 (last two weeks of September).