

Project Name: U.S. Highway 97 and J Street Intersection Project, OR

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: City of Madras, 71 SE "D" Street, Madras, Oregon, 97741

Project Location: Madras, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 3288 appropriates \$681,800 for the U.S. Highway 97 and J Street Intersection Project located in Madras, Oregon. According to the requestor, funds would be used to modernize and realign the intersection of J Street where it bisects U.S. Highways 26 and 97 within the city limits of Madras, Oregon. According to the City of Madras, this is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it will improve transportation safety and efficiency, create and preserve jobs, and enable further economic development.

Account: Surface Transportation Priorities

Project Name: Brett Way Extension, OR

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: City of Klamath Falls, 500 Klamath Avenue, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Project Location: Klamath Falls, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 3288 appropriates \$292,200 for the Brett Way Extension, OR Project located in Klamath Falls, Oregon. According to the requestor, funds would go towards closure of an unsafe intersection located at Summers Lane and the South Side Bypass and the extension of Brett Way from Summers Lane to Homedale Road, as well as installation of water line and sanitary sewer, construction of a bridge over an existing canal, and elimination of a uncontrolled rail crossing on Summers Lane. According to the City of Klamath Falls, this is a valuable use of taxpayer dollars because it would open access to the underutilized airport industrial park area as well as provide much needed alternate access to the airport.

Account: Economic Development Initiatives

Project Name: For the reconstruction and construction needs of facilities which are critical to the local economy

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Pendleton Round-Up, 1114 SW Court Avenue, Pendleton, OR, 97801

Project Location: Pendleton, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 3288 appropriates \$487,000 for the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon Facilities Improvements located in Pendleton, Oregon. According to the requestor, funds would be used to construct the Centennial Grandstand facility to replace an aging structure that has outlived its useful life and to complete the reconstruction of the four-phase project at Happy Canyon. According to the Pendleton Round-Up, this is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because this project would preserve a world renowned rodeo and Native American cultural event.

RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES' 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Village of Hoffman Estates, a town in my district that is celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. This community has made a

unique contribution to the district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

The Village of Hoffman Estates is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Located in Cook County, Hoffman Estates was established in 1954 when a local farmer sold his 160 acre farm to Sam and Jack Hoffman, owners of the Father and Son Construction Company. The Hoffmans built a development and in 1959, the residents of the subdivision voted to incorporate as the village of Hoffman Estates. In the following decades, Hoffman Estates continued to annex surrounding areas and developments. Business also came to Hoffman Estates including the Sears, Roebuck and Company in 1992.

Madam Speaker, the Village of Hoffman Estates is unique in its history and adds greatly to the vibrant community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of the Village of Hoffman Estates for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Hoffman Estates for reaching their 50th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,081,709,382,532.35.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,443,283,636,238.55 so far this year.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, the forecast deficit for this year is \$1.6 trillion. That means that so far this year, we borrowed and spent an average \$4.4 billion a day more than we have collected, passing that debt and its interest payments to our children and all future Americans.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4173, the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which will rebuild our economy and crack down on Wall Street to prevent another economic collapse caused by institutions that are "too big to fail."

Over the past year, I, like many Rhode Islanders, have been angered by the greed exhibited by Wall Street and other companies that took advantage of their investors, preyed on our constituents, and rewarded executives with outrageous pay packages. With this bill, consumer protection will come first, and irresponsible companies will be held accountable for their actions.

H.R. 4173 establishes the Consumer Financial Protection Agency, which will protect families and small businesses by ensuring that bank loans, mortgages, credit cards and other financial products are fair, affordable and transparent. Merchants will be excluded from the oversight of the CFPB, and small banks and credit unions will not be subject to undue regulatory burdens. However, the CFPB will play a backup role if the primary regulators fail in their oversight responsibilities.

This measure also establishes an orderly process for dismantling large, failing financial institutions like AIG or Lehman Brothers, which will protect taxpayers and prevent collapse throughout the rest of the financial system. These large institutions will pay into a fund that will be tapped if a company faces dissolution. There will be no more taxpayer bailouts for these "too big to fail" institutions.

Additionally, H.R. 4173 responds to the failure to detect frauds like the Madoff scheme by ordering a study of the entire securities industry. This measure will also increase investor protections by strengthening the Securities and Exchange Commission and boosting its funding level. For the first time ever, the over-the-counter derivatives marketplace will be regulated under this bill and hedge funds will have to register with the SEC. It also takes steps to reduce market reliance on the credit rating agencies and impose a liability standard on the agencies.

I would like to thank the committees for their work on this bill, and especially want to thank Chairman FRANK for his leadership on this strong reform measure. I encourage all my colleagues to vote for this bill.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF BEACH PARK

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the village of Beach Park, a town in my district celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. Each of these communities has made a unique contribution to district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

The village of Beach Park is celebrating its 20-year anniversary. Located on Lake Michigan, Beach Park was a stop on the Chicago-Milwaukee Electric Railroad named "Beach Depot" in the early 1900s. In 1928, F.H. Bartlett Co. of Chicago purchased land near the rail station and sold parcels of land to city residents looking to escape to the country. In 1949, the community adopted the name of Beach Park and put a school district and fire department in place. But it was not until 1989 that the village of Beach Park was incorporated.

Madam Speaker, the village of Beach Park is unique in its history and adds to the vibrant

community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of the village of Beach Park for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Beach Park reaching their 20th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3288,
CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 10, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill.

Too many of our fellow citizens are suffering as a result of the biggest economic downturn in 75 years. In light of the number of Americans who continue to be unemployed or under-employed, it is essential that we focus our efforts on helping Americans find jobs. H.R. 3288 is responsible legislation which will help employ Americans, assist communities suffering from decreases in tax payments, and provide more stability to our economy.

H.R. 3288 would put an estimated 1.5 million Americans back to work by investing \$41.8 billion in improving our transportation infrastructure. The bill also provides 4.5 billion for commuter and passenger rail projects to help reduce congestion and provide more environmentally-friendly ways for Americans to get to work and travel. I am pleased that my colleague from Pennsylvania PATRICK MURPHY and I were able to get language removed from this bill preventing Amtrak from being able to offer discounted fares to commuters on the Northeast Corridor. Since it was first included in the 2006 Fiscal Year, this language prevented Amtrak from being able to offer a more than 50 percent discount off peak fares to commuters on any of its lines. This resulted in a 20 percent fare increase to my constituents. The removal of this provision recognizes the need to make public transportation more affordable and more accessible, and I expect it will result in discounted Amtrak ticket rates.

Our economy nearly collapsed last year because of the combination of reckless and abusive financial services and mortgage-industry practices, and astounding regulatory failures. To help re-establish real oversight and control over our financial markets, the bill provides \$1.111 billion to strengthen and enforce rules that govern investments and financial markets and to detect and prosecute fraudulent schemes, and allow the hiring of another 420 investigators, lawyers and analysts to support the mission of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The bill also provides \$292 million to strengthen the Federal Trade Commission's capacity to protect consumers and combat anti-competitive behavior. Additionally, the bill allocates \$118 million for the Consumer Product Safety Commission to continue implementing bipartisan consumer protection legislation enacted in 2008 in response to massive toxic product scandals, including children's toys from China.

The bill also provides \$1.4 billion for training and support services to workers affected by

mass layoffs and plant closures, and \$125 million for competitive grants to community colleges and partnership with local adult education providers to prepare workers for careers in high-demand and emerging industries. To assist affected parents in ensuring that their children get good meals and quality health care, the bill provides \$7.2 billion for Head Start, an investment that will help nearly 1 million children from low-income families.

To help America's students pay for a college education, this bill maintains the discretionary portion of the maximum Pell Grant at \$4,860, which, combined with a mandatory supplement of \$690, will support a \$5,550 maximum Pell Grant in FY 2010. Since January 2007, the maximum Pell Grant has been increased by \$1,500 or 37 percent—from \$4,050 to \$5,550. In FY 2010, more than 8 million college students will receive Pell Grants.

This bill maintains investments in math and science education by providing \$180 million toward the Department of Education's Mathematics and Science Partnerships. The program is the only national teacher development program available to teachers across the U.S.

It is widely understood that early language education is the key to language proficiency later on. In order to start addressing the pressing needs for skilled linguists and other language professionals that currently exist, this bill maintains investments in the Foreign Language Assistance Program at \$27 million, which is currently the only federal program that supports foreign language education at the elementary and secondary school level.

This bill also contains provision and funding for programs to protect Americans' access to health care coverage until national health care reform is enacted. To that end, the bill provides \$2.2 billion to provide primary health care to 17 million patients, of whom 40 percent are uninsured, in 7,500 service delivery sites. These centers provide high quality care in both urban and rural underserved areas across the country. The bill also seeks to increase the number of health care professionals by providing \$498 million to support the training of health professionals in fields where there are shortages, such as nursing. And to help find cures for the diseases afflicting Americans, the bill provides \$31 billion for NIH-funded biomedical research to improve health and reduce health care expenditures.

At a time when the recession has created a fiscal crisis for state and local governments, requiring them to let go of key law enforcement and related personnel, federal support for state and local law enforcement programs has never been more important. To help keep police on the beat, the bill provides \$792 million to support local law enforcement agencies with hiring, technology, training, body armor, and sex-offender enforcement management grants. This includes \$298 million specifically for COPS Hiring Grants to hire or retain approximately 1,400 police officers. The bill also provides \$519 million for the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program, which helps local law enforcement agencies engage in a broad range of activities to better fight and prevent crime. I'm pleased that this year several municipalities in my district will receive funding for projects under this program, including the Borough of Jamesburg (to modernize communications), the city of Trenton (for an anti-gang program), and the township of North Brunswick (for a video surveillance system).

Meeting our obligations to America's veterans is a national trust. The bill provides over \$109 billion for the operation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, with \$45.1 billion allocated for medical care. In a breakthrough long sought by veterans, the bill also provides advance appropriations for the VA to ensure a stable and uninterrupted source of funding for medical care for veterans, providing \$48.2 billion for FY 2011.

I am very pleased that this bill reflects a strong commitment by this Congress to provide robust, secure funding for science. The bill keeps the U.S. on track to double the funding for basic research by providing over \$31 billion for the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. An additional \$31 billion will support biomedical research through the National Institutes of Health. These investments in our science and innovation infrastructure will help create jobs immediately while stimulating the discoveries and investments that will ensure sustained economic growth in the future.

I am also pleased that this bill includes \$17.4 million in disability access funding under the Help America Vote Act, including \$12.1 million to help ensure that polling places are accessible and \$5.3 million for protection and advocacy funding. The bill also includes \$70 million in funding to help States meet the voting system requirements of the Help America Vote Act, and better protect and preserve the integrity of elections. This sum is much less than I requested, and it is less than the \$100 million passed in the House, but it will go a long way in helping States improve the administration of elections—the foundation of our Democracy.

Finally, this bill makes much needed investments in our foreign affairs institutions, including funding increases that will allow the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development to hire additional foreign service personnel to address the neglected staffing needs of these agencies. Key initiatives continue to receive vigorous support, including efforts to combat HIV/AIDS and other diseases, agriculture and food security programs, basic education programs, microfinance and microcredit, and the Peace Corps. I am especially pleased that the final bill recognizes the important contributions that scientists and scientific engagement can make to our international relations.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this critical funding bill.

RECOGNIZING THE VILLAGE OF
FOX RIVER GROVE'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 14, 2009

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Village of Fox River Grove, a town in my district that is celebrating a milestone anniversary this year. This community has made a unique contribution to the district I represent, and to the State of Illinois.

The Village of Fox River Grove is celebrating its 90th anniversary. Located along the