

acquisition, master plan design, engineering, and construction costs. I also understand that the funding provided is only a piece of the total funding required for this project and anticipated allocations may change.

Project Name: Community Redevelopment and Restoration, Lower Fairview.

Account: Department of Housing and Urban Development—Economic Development Initiatives.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The Nehemiah Project.

Address of Requesting Entity: 800 Valley View Boulevard, Altoona, PA 16602.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

\$71,250 for redevelopment of buildings in the downtown Lower Fairview area of Altoona, Pennsylvania.

It is my understanding that funding for this project will be used to aid in the redevelopment of buildings in the Lower Fairview area of Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Specifically, I understand the project is centered on the rehabilitation of an abandoned and condemned church building that used to serve as a safe haven for those in need. Once restored, the facility will be home to a variety of programs designed to meet the needs of area residents and provide tools to put them in a position to succeed in the future.

It is also my understanding that funding will be used for a variety of acquisition and construction needs. I also understand that the funding provided is only a piece of the total funding required for this project and anticipated allocations may change.

#### RECOGNIZING BETH LEES AS THE 2010 SANTA ROSA COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR

##### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2009*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Beth Lees, Santa Rosa County's 2010 Teacher of the Year.

From an early age, Ms. Lees has expressed a passion and talent for teaching. Inspired by the work of her mother, also a teacher, Ms. Lees would work on the blackboard and create curriculum in the imaginary games of "school" she played as a child. This early interest blossomed into an enduring devotion to the profession of teaching and to helping children realize their intellectual potential.

Ms. Lees began her teaching career at Troy University, where she earned a B.A. in elementary education and a master's of science in Education. After graduating, she began teaching third grade and spent the next 12 years teaching third, fourth, and fifth grade. Her education and early experiences have resonated in her current teaching style. Ms. Lees is known for her exciting curriculum and students and teachers often remark on her ability to make the material fun and dynamic. Her enthusiasm is contagious and the structure she provides her students, especially in the way of reading comprehension, is vital to their long-term academic success.

The title of Teacher of the Year is an honor and is evidence of Ms. Lees's exceptional ca-

pabilities as an educator. Beyond the title lies Ms. Lees's dedication and devotion, to not only her students, but to the entire community. Her teaching skills and affable personality have influenced many and pushed countless students to a higher level of academic achievement. Ms. Lees's outstanding accomplishments have distinguished her as one of the great teachers in northwest Florida, and the First District of Florida is honored to have her as one of their own.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I am proud to recognize Beth Lees on this outstanding achievement and for her exemplary service in the Santa Rosa School District.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BENITA DURAN

##### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2009*

Ms. SOLIS of California. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Benita Duran, a dedicated, hard working woman whom I am very fortunate to have had on my staff for more than eight years.

Benita joined my staff in November 2000 while I was serving as a member of the California State Senate. She stayed with me during my transition into service as a Member of Congress and has been my Deputy District Director since 2004.

During her time in my office, Benita demonstrated that she is a hard working individual committed to advancing the public interest. She demonstrated her passion for issues affecting underserved communities and the lives of working families daily in her work. True to her roots, the residents of El Sereno were first and foremost in her heart and mind.

Benita is strongly committed to our nation's servicemen and women, veterans and their families. She worked tirelessly to ensure that countless numbers of veterans received the medals and recognition they earned, and stood by the families of who lost their loved ones in service to our nation.

Benita was equally committed to helping all residents resolve issues which required Federal assistance. She paid personal attention to each case, whether it was helping resolve an IRS issue to helping people achieve the American Dream of securing their citizenship.

As my Deputy District Director, Benita managed my two district offices and staff in a mature, thoughtful, organized manner. Through her words and actions, Benita trained, mentored and inspired my staff to constantly challenge themselves to meet new goals while helping them along the way. I knew Benita could be counted on to deliver. I am grateful to have had her assist me in this capacity while my work kept me in Washington, DC.

Benita's passion, dedication and commitment to public service will be sorely missed. I am confident she will continue to excel in all future endeavors.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE ACT OF 2009

##### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2009*

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing "The National Water Research and Development Initiative Act of 2009," which coordinates national research and development efforts on water and provides a clear path forward to ensure adequate water supplies for generations to come.

In the United States, over 50,000 water utilities withdraw approximately 40 billion gallons per day of water from the Nation's resources to supply water for domestic consumption, industry, and other uses. When severe water shortages occur, the economic effect can be substantial. According to a 2000 report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, eight water shortages from drought or heat waves each resulted in \$1 billion or more in monetary losses over the past 20 years.

Water is essential to everything we do, and there is no substitute for it. Many Americans are unaware how stressed our water supplies have become. This situation will continue to be exacerbated by increases in population and energy demand and shifting weather patterns caused by climate change. In order to meet the water demands of the future, it is essential that we have the tools needed to utilize water resources efficiently and to maintain the quality of our water supplies. Sound water management is essential if we are to meet society's water needs for industry, agriculture, recreation, and power.

An adequate supply of treated water is integral to many industries, including agriculture and food processing, beverages, power generation, paper production, manufacturing, and mineral extraction. Water shortages can negatively affect companies and entire industries and reduce job creation and retention. Current industry trajectories, population growth, and dwindling water supplies all point to increased water shortages. Increased water demand will come with increased costs to all businesses, industries, and municipalities which rely on the same water resources. The Association of California Water Agencies reported in April 2008 that California is now losing income and jobs due to the State's water supply crisis.

If we are to meet the water crises of the future, we need an effective research and development effort that provides tools and information to manage our water resources effectively. Coordination of the 20 Federal agencies responsible for water programs is a logical place to start. The 2004 National Academies Report on Federal Water Research stated that the United States is not getting its money's worth on water resources research because of a lack of coordination.

The legislation I am introducing today builds on the Bush Administration's effort to coordinate Federal research on water resources by establishing an interagency committee—the Subcommittee on Water Availability and Quality (SWAQ) of the National Science and Technology Council. The bill codifies this subcommittee and provides it explicit Congressional authorization.

The bill also incorporates recommendations from the 2004 report by the National Academies of Science entitled, *Confronting the Nation's Water Problems: The Role of Federal Research* to strengthen the committee's role in setting priorities and developing an integrated budget to support research on water resources. The Academy's report indicated that SWAQ is an effective forum for agencies to share information about their efforts on water. However, the report identified several issues that needed to be addressed to make SWAQ an effective coordinating body.

This bill strengthens the budget function for SWAQ through participation of OMB on the subcommittee. In addition, SWAQ is directed to engage in outreach activities to develop connections to state and local governments, to a wider community of stakeholders, and to the public. These recommendations, and others, helped to form the basis of the initiative.

The Science and Technology Committee held hearings in 2008 to examine the problems associated with dwindling water supplies across the Nation and to receive testimony as to the recommended role of the Federal Government in meeting these challenges.

Witnesses at these hearings offered recommendations for improving the legislation and their suggestions were incorporated into the introduced language including the following: additional research outcomes, better mechanisms for public involvement, and improved facilitation of communication and outreach opportunities with non-governmental organizations.

It is critical that we actively pursue technological innovations to ensure future water supplies, and that Federal dollars spent on these efforts are utilized in a cost-effective manner. I offer this legislation to improve and coordinate Federal research and development efforts on water. I urge my colleagues to support the legislation and to speed its enactment into law.

## CAPTIVE PRIMATE SAFETY ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. LOIS CAPPS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 23, 2009*

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 80, the Captive Primate Safety Act. This timely legislation would help ensure the safety of not only chimpanzees and other nonhuman primates, but for humans as well.

This legislation would keep chimpanzees and other nonhuman primates out of the pet trade and out of pet shops and out of our homes. In effect, this bill would prevent nonhuman primates from becoming pets, and instead, keep them in their natural environment or in a properly maintained facility.

There are several reasons why we must pass this legislation.

First, pet chimpanzees and other nonhuman primates can be very dangerous, even after years of attentive care.

The recent horrific attack by a pet chimpanzee reminds us that no matter how much care a well-intentioned pet owner gives a pet chimpanzee, chimpanzees and nonhuman primates remain wild animals.

Second, most people can not provide the appropriate care for chimpanzees and other nonhuman primates.

Last year I had the privilege to hear Jane Goodall testify at Natural Resources Committee legislative hearing in support of the Captive Primate Safety Act.

Dr. Goodall has dedicated her life to ensuring captive primates receive the attention and care they deserve, and that is why she strongly opposes having primates as pets.

She testified that although chimpanzees may seem attractive as pets, primates have complicated needs that are impossible for even well-intentioned pet owners to provide. For example, by the age of five, chimpanzees are often stronger than human adults and become destructive, difficult to contain, and dangerous.

Let us follow Jane Goodall's lead and work to protect these animals, not subject them to inadequate conditions.

Third, as a nurse, I am greatly concerned with the public health risk posed by nonhuman primates. Nonhuman primates are so genetically close to humans, diseases can easily transfer from nonhuman primates to humans. Zoonotic diseases have produced some of our history's most deadly disease epidemics: the plague, the ebola virus, and cholera, to name a few. It is clear, when we have unnecessary contact with nonhuman primates, we carelessly jeopardize the public's health.

Finally, chimpanzees and other nonhuman primates are wild animals, they do not belong in our homes or in pet shops. No matter how much love and attention nonhuman primates are given, they remain complex, wild, and unpredictable animals.

The Captive Primate Safety Act is good legislation for both primates and people. It will add primates to the list of wildlife species prohibited from interstate or foreign commerce and thus, keep nonhuman primates out of the pet trade.

Thank you and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in the supporting this timely legislation.

## EARMARK DECLARATION

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2009*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009.

Project Name: Mobile Harbor Turning Basin.  
Requesting Member: Congressman Jo Bonner.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction General Account.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alabama State Port Authority.

Address of Requesting Entity: 250 North Water Street, Suite 300, Mobile, AL 36602.

Description of Request: Provide \$4.785 million to construct the Mobile Harbor Turning Basin project as authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (PL99-662 Ninety-ninth Congress, Second Session) under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Construction General Account. Initial project request anticipated expenditures of .04 per-

cent will be used for land; .11 percent will be used for navigation aids; .11 percent for removal of existing concrete debris; 3.97 percent for mobilization, preparation and demobilization of a 26 CY Bucket Dredge; 4.20 percent for mobilization, preparation and demobilization of a 30 inch Pipeline Dredge; 67 percent for the removal of and placement in designated dredge disposal areas approx. 2,699,232 cubic yards of dredged material; 5.32 percent for planning, engineering and design work; 2.42 percent for construction management; 12.57 percent in project construction contingency; and 3.83 percent in project escalation. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers conducted an Environmental Assessment in accordance with Engineer Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Pts. 1500-1508) resulting in a FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI). Construction of the authorized turning basin has been evaluated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through the Corps General Reevaluation Report (GRR) to alleviate harbor delays and improve safety conditions, and reflects a benefit-to-cost ratio of 3.46 to 1. This project is permitted. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers General Construction account. The Alabama State Port Authority, the 10th largest port in the U.S., is the federally designated local sponsor for the Port of Mobile Harbor and will provide the 25 percent cost share for the Mobile Harbor Turning Basin project. The Alabama State Port Authority's 25 percent cost share funding is secured. Turning basin will help serve a new container terminal, coal terminal and two raw material terminals.

Project Name: Mobile Harbor.

Requesting Member: Congressman Jo Bonner.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Operations and Maintenance.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alabama State Port Authority.

Address of Requesting Entity: 250 North Water Street, Suite 300, Mobile, Alabama 36602.

Description of Request: Provide \$20.014 million for normal Operations and Maintenance of the Mobile Harbor Project, Mobile Alabama. Mobile Harbor is the nation's 10th largest port and is critical to the movement of a variety of products necessary for the nation's economy. Mobile Harbor handles 59 million tons of cargo annually and serves a wide range of Alabama and southeastern industries. Approximately \$20.014 million of these funds will be used for maintenance dredging of the bay and river channels, as well as for condition surveys, dredging surveys, disposal area maintenance and ESA/WQC coordination. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Army Corps of Engineers, Operations and Maintenance account.

Project Name: Coosa-Alabama River Lakes.  
Requesting Member: Congressman Jo Bonner.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Operations & Maintenance.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District.