

recently announced decision to close the NATO supply base at Manas.

As always, members of the United States military contributed greatly to the success of this trip. The logistics of such a trip, compressed into a tight time frame, are complicated and require lengthy and detailed preparation. Our military escorts were from the Air Force's Legislative Liaison Office and the aircrew was from the 932nd Air Wing at Scott AFB, Illinois. They did an outstanding job, and I thank them for their hard work and dedication to duty.

EARMARK DISCLOSURE

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act:

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, RE/FA

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Miami

Address of Requesting Entity: 1252 Memorial Drive, Coral Gables, FL, 33146

Description of Request: I have secured \$2,494,000 for Climate Forecasting, FL. This funding will be used to continue research on the application of climate forecasts. Climate variability significantly impacts agricultural production in the Southeastern United States. Agriculture is one of the most important sectors of the Southeastern economy and contributed \$14.3 billion to Florida, Georgia and Alabama economies in 2002. The Southeastern Climate Consortium reduces economic risks and improves social well-being by facilitating the effective use of climate information in agricultural decision-making. Members of the Southeastern Climate Consortium include the University of Miami, Florida State University, University of Florida, University of Georgia, University of Alabama at Huntsville, and Auburn University. Each university provides unique and complementary talent and expertise in the necessary research areas. For example, the University of Miami will provide socioeconomic modeling and analyses of the agricultural system and characterize the linkages among water management and farming. Previous funding for this project includes \$2,675,000 in FY08 and \$3,600,000 in FY06. It is my understanding that all participating Universities will receive a portion of this funding.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service, SRG

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Services

Address of Requesting Entity: 700 Experiment Station Road, Lake Alfred, FL 33850

Description of Request: I have secured \$1,217,000 for Citrus Canker/Greening, FL. The funding will be used to continue the vital citrus canker and greening research being conducted by the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Services (IFAS), to improve technologies for treatment and detection, methods of movement and containment, and means to control and eliminate citrus canker and greening. As a result of the 2004 and 2005 hurricane season it has become evident that the eradication of citrus canker in Florida is not feasible, therefore it is vital that the scientific community find a disease resistant crop or a cure to the disease to protect the citrus industry, which is a vital part of the Florida economy, from these devastating diseases. The continued research on citrus canker and greening is a joint effort among the State of Florida, University of Florida and citrus industry. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$16 million in total. The University of Florida has received \$3 million from the Florida State Legislature and \$7 million from citrus growers for work on this important project. Previously the University of Florida has received \$1.35 million in FY08, \$500,000 in FY06 and \$474,000 in FY07 for this project. It is my understanding that the University of Florida will provide \$3 million in cost-share funding.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Department of Justice, COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Doral

Address of Requesting Entity: 8300 NW 53rd St, Suite 100, Doral, FL 33166

Description of Request: I have secured \$500,000 for the City of Doral Police Department. This funding will be used to offset the cost of purchases made to establish a new police department in the City of Doral which was incorporated in 2003 and has grown at a rate of 71%. The City of Doral recently opened its own police department after sharing services with the Miami-Dade County Police Department for the past several years. The City opened its department in order to effectively provide for the rapidly growing community's traffic, public safety and law enforcement needs. Funds provided will be used for equipment purchases include protective gear, communications devices, hardware/software and technology upgrades. The project is estimated to cost a total of \$17 million. It is my understanding that the city has received \$1,500,000 through the Community Budget Issue Request Funding provided by the State of Florida that will be utilized as a cost-share for this project.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Department of Justice, COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Collier County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 3301 E. Tamiami Trail, Naples, FL 34112

Description of Request: I have secured \$350,000 for the Emergency Services Technology. The funding will be used to support

the acquisition of public safety equipment for the County's new Emergency Services Center. Current public safety technology equipment is outdated and hindering the ability for the local law enforcement officials to work effectively. Funding will go towards procurement of GIS and improved interoperable communications technology. The Emergency Services Center, currently under construction, is a 130,000 square foot, four story complex and includes a communications tower. Upon completion, occupants will include the Emergency Management staff, Emergency Operations Center, Information Technology, Sheriff's Substation and 911 Center, and Clerk of Courts. The total cost of technology acquisition is approximately \$10,000,000. It is my understanding that the County has committed to funding construction of the \$56,000,000 complex with the help of \$3,204,000 provided by the State of Florida as a cost-share for this project. This project received \$352,500 in FY08.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Department of Justice, OJP—Juvenile Justice

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The ARISE Foundation

Address of Requesting Entity: 824 US Hwy 1, Suite 240, North Palm Beach, FL, 33408-3838

Description of Request: I have secured \$300,000 for the ARISE Life-Management Skills Intervention/ Re-entry Program for High Risk Youth. The funding will be used by The ARISE Foundation to provide juvenile justice facilities with specialized staff training and unique curricula to teach life lessons and develop thinking skills for incarcerated youth needed to break the cycle of violence and crime in order to reduce recidivism rates. The ARISE foundation serves approximately 31 facilities providing juvenile justice and has trained over 5,250 certified life skills instructors who have taught over 3.7 million hours of life skills lessons. The material provided contains vital information used to reduce recidivism by learning life-management lessons. The ARISE foundation plans to expand its training program for Juvenile Crime and Detention Officers in Florida's Juvenile Justice facilities by introducing additional training topics such as anger management, non-judgmental listening and conflict resolution. This project has received previous funding including \$728,500 in FY08, \$250,000 in FY06, \$250,000 in FY05, \$500,000 in FY04 and \$500,000 in FY03. It is my understanding that this project will receive cost-share funds in the form of \$150,000 from sales of curriculum and training and \$100,000 from private foundation grants.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: South Florida Water Management District

Address of Requesting Entity: 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Description of Request: I have secured \$123,448,000 for the South Florida Everglades Ecosystem Restoration, FL. The focus of Everglades Restoration is to restore, protect and

preserve the defining ecological features of the original Everglades and the South Florida ecosystem. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) was originally enacted in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. This Plan includes 68 different projects designed with the goal of restoring historic waterflows to the Florida Everglades. This project is a 50/50 cost-share with the Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Florida. To date the State of Florida has invested in excess of \$2 billion for CERP, the ACOE has invested just over \$340 million. In FY08 this project received \$130,669,000. It is my understanding that this funding will be utilized by the State to serve as the Federal share of the 50/50 cost-share arrangement established in WRDA 2000.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: South Florida Water Management District

Address of Requesting Entity: 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Description of Request: I have secured \$3,472,000 for the South Florida Everglades Ecosystem Restoration, FL Everglades and S. Florida Ecosystem Restoration, FL. The focus of Everglades Restoration is to restore, protect and preserve the defining ecological features of the original Everglades and the South Florida ecosystem. The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) was originally enacted in the Water Resources Development Act of 2000. This Plan includes 68 different projects designed with the goal of restoring historic waterflows to the Florida Everglades. This project is a 50/50 cost-share with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and the State of Florida. To date the State of Florida has invested in excess of \$2 billion for CERP, the ACOE has invested just over \$340 million. In FY08 this project received \$130,669,000. It is my understanding that this funding will be utilized by the State to serve as the Federal share of the 50/50 cost-share arrangement established in WRDA 2000.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Investigations

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Miami-Dade County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 111 NW 1ST St, Suite 1032, Miami, FL 33128

Description of Request: I have secured \$478,000 for the Miami Harbor, FL. The funding will be used to begin the Miami Harbor Phase III dredging project authorized under the Water Resources Development Act of 2007. The project will deepen the Port of Miami to 50–52 feet in order to accommodate the larger container ships which are becoming the industry standard. Implementation includes design, preparation of plans and specification for bidding. Miami Harbor is a major economic force, accounting for over 98,000 jobs and \$12 billion in annual economic impact. The total project cost is \$154,300,000 with an additional \$3,800,000 in PED (\$2,670,000 Federal and \$1,220,000 Non-Federal). Expected Federal Share based on Federal Statute is

\$73,060,000. The Non-Federal Share is \$81,240,000. It is my understanding that Miami-Dade County intends to invest \$1,220,000 and other Federal Sources will be investing \$670,000 as a cost-share for this project.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, O & M Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Miami-Dade County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 111 NW 1ST St, Suite 1032, Miami, FL 33128

Description of Request: I have secured \$10,043,000 for the Miami River, FL. The funding will be used to implement the final phase of the Miami River Dredging Project, seeking to restore the authorized depth and width to the navigational channel. The project aims to remove contaminated sediments from the Miami River, which is Florida's 4th largest port with an economic value of \$4 billion. The River has not been dredged since it was originally dredged to be navigational in the 1930s. The dredging provides improve navigation as well as enhances the environmental quality of the River and Biscayne Bay. This funding will enable the ACOE to complete this project. \$40,000,000 has previously been Appropriated for this project. The State of Florida has provided a minimum of \$2 billion to act as a 50/50 partner. It is my understanding that funding allocation and cost-sharing will include \$4,700,000 from Miami-Dade County, \$3,300,000 from the City of Miami, \$19,200,000 from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and \$9,700,000 from the South Florida Water Management District.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Department of Energy, Science Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Barry University

Address of Requesting Entity: 11300 NE Second Ave, Miami Shores, FL 33161

Description of Request: I have secured \$761,200 for the Barry University Institute for Collaborative Sciences Research. The funding will be used to expand and renovate the collaborative research, laboratories and teaching facilities and instrumentation as well as to expand support for faculty and student development. Barry University requires more critical laboratory and teaching space to develop its potential as a research facility to further their mission to prepare leaders from the minority community in health professions and facilitate nationally valuable evidence-based research. This project has previously received \$400,000 in FY08.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Army Corps of Engineers, Construction

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: South Florida Water Management District

Address of Requesting Entity: 3301 Gun Club Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Description of Request: I have secured \$74,069,000 for the Herbert Hoover Dike, FL (Seepage Control). This vital project, which is currently underway, is providing vital security

by constructing a seepage cutoff wall that will protect the Dike from seepage as well as protect the local community by preventing a breach in the Dike during a Hurricane. This project is authorized under the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1930 and received \$54,883,584 million in FY08. It is my understanding that this is a 100% Federal project and all funding will be utilized for further construction work on the Dike.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine

Address of Requesting Entity: 1601 NW 12th Avenue, 9th Floor, Miami, FL 33136.

Description of Request: I have secured \$238,000 for purchase of equipment for the Pediatric Integrative Medical Center at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine. The funding will be used to develop a pioneer center for excellence for a pediatric integrative medicine model where research and delivery of care are emphasized. The model will utilize Complementary and Alternative Medicine (CAM) in concert with conventional medicine to improve the standards of care. It is becoming more and more evident that all health problems cannot be solved through traditional medical interventions, many factors, such as diet, lifestyle and environment play an important role in pediatric health. Currently, CAM has not been tested extensively in pediatrics, and adult studies cannot be extrapolated to pediatrics. This Center will focus on evaluating CAM and a pediatric integrative medicine model in order to develop the most effective interventions and develop rigorous scientific methodology. The model will allow cross-communication between pediatricians, disease management specialists and CAM practitioners with a single point of contact with the patient in order to provide comprehensive and efficient delivery model.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Homestead, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 790 North Homestead Blvd., Homestead, FL 33030

Description of Request: I have secured \$190,000 for facilities and equipment at the Bill Dickinson Senior Center. The funding will be used for construction, renovation and equipment to expand the Bill Dickinson Senior Center. The expansion is necessary to accommodate the growing number of members and to allow the Center to provide dedicated medical rooms geared toward health, therapy/fitness services and health screening. This project received \$375,000 in FY04 and \$125,000 in FY05. It is my understanding that the City of Homestead will provide \$5,800,000 for design and construction and the Florida State Division of Cultural Affairs will provide \$346,500 in cost-share funding.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Collier County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 3301 E. Tamiami Trail, Naples, FL 34112

Description of Request: I have secured \$143,000 for healthcare access network for the uninsured, including purchase of equipment for Collier County, FL. The funding will be used to support and further develop a health care access network for the under/uninsured in Collier County. Collier County has identified over 35,000 residents who lack quality health care and currently is experiencing overuse of its emergency health facilities. This project seeks to expand, organize, and develop a full access program with a full continuum of services for approximately 35,000 residents needing health care. The initial phase of this project has been the adoption of a shared information database between the portals of entry for the poor into the system. Future phases of the project include marketing and full penetration of the population of uninsured/underinsured individuals. The total cost of this project is approximately \$5 million. This project received \$327,183 in FY08. It is my understanding that local healthcare providers will contribute approximately \$1,000,000 in services, community foundations will provide \$370,000 and Collier County will provide matching funds of approximately \$130,000 for staff salaries.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Miami-Dade College

Address of Requesting Entity: 11011 SW 104 St, Miami, FL 33176

Description of Request: I have secured \$142,500 for the development and construction of an Environmental and Ecological Study Center. The funding will go towards the development and construction of an Environmental and Ecological Study Center at Miami-Dade College. The facility will be a dynamic education resource center and environmental showcase consisting of a single family "house" where students and visitors can see ecologically sound best practices. It will have the external appearance of a south Florida home and will have flexible meeting areas for workshops, conferences, demonstration areas and office space. The Center will model environmentally sustainable construction design and will provide local residents, consumers, designers, builders, environmentalists and others with a single source for integrated and practical ways to make homes greener, safer, stronger and smarter. The Center will deliver formal and informal education in support of major national and state environmental priorities including energy efficiency and conservation, hurricane and flood protection, water conservation and management, asthma, mold and other indoor air hazards and access for the disabled. It is my understanding that Miami-Dade College intends to provide a local match of \$319,266.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Authority, Bus and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Town of Miami Lakes, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 15700 NW 67th Ave, Miami Lakes, FL 33014

Description of Request: I have secured \$570,000 for the Miami Lakes Hybrid Electric Vehicles and Trolleybus Procurement, FL. The funding will be used for the second phase of the vehicle procurement program. The funding will go towards the procurement of hybrid electrical vehicles which provide negligible emissions and low-floor designs. The vehicles will be part of the trolleybus service that is currently being implemented. The service is designed to provide general transportation throughout the town, primarily focusing on east-west directional travel currently not serviced by the County bus system, transportation for students and parents to and from Bob Graham Education Center during the morning commencement and afternoon dismissal periods, a mid-day lunch route service for the business parks, and lastly, a paratransit, door-to-door bus service for senior citizens. The general circulator will mitigate their growing traffic congestion problems and the potential safety concerns stemmed by increased vehicular traffic. The funds will go towards the purchase of a new bus with an estimated cost of \$400,000 and operations and maintenance. It is my understanding that this project has received \$400,000 from the State Department of Transportation for operations and the Town will fund the remaining operations budget with revenues from a local transportation sales tax. This project received \$300,000 in FY08.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Miami Military Museum

Address of Requesting Entity: 1825 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Coral Gables, FL 33134

Description of Request: I have secured \$118,750 for the relocation, restoration and rehabilitation of a historic military structure called the Miami Military Museum. The funding will be used to relocate, restore and rehabilitate the historic structure into a military museum, veterans memorial and education center. The structure served as a control base and headquarters for the blimps that protected the South Florida coastline and Caribbean during World War II, an intelligence base during the Cold War and the Cuban Missile Crisis, an Army Reserve Center, and a Marine Corps Reserve Center during Desert Storm. In addition to serving as a museum, the restored facility will serve as a research library and classroom space to accommodate school field trips. It is my understanding that this project is expected to receive \$2,000,000 from Miami-Dade County and has previously received \$350,000.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Authority, Bus and Bus Facilities

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Doral, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 8300 NW 53rd St, Suite 100, Doral, FL 33166.

Description of Request: I have secured \$475,000 for the Doral Transit Circulator Program. The funding will be used to further implement the Doral Transit Circulator program. This program allows the City to provide public transportation services to help alleviate traffic congestion and to connect residential areas with recreational, retail and commercial facilities. Once primarily composed of agricultural and industrial tracts, City of Doral has established itself as a major center of wholesale international trade and a booming office, commercial, and residential community. Approximately 35,000 people live in Doral and over 100,000 more travel to and through the city each day for employment and business activities. Due to its proximity to the urban core of Miami-Dade and major transportation facilities, as well as the rapid development of its component communities, Doral contends with a unique array of transportation concerns that require immediate and significant attention. It is my understanding that the City of Doral will provide \$250,000 in matching funds towards this project.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Department of Transportation, Federal Lands (Public Lands Highways)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Miccosukee Reservation, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 440021, Tamiami Station, Miami, FL 33144.

Description of Request: I have secured \$760,000 for the Snake Road Safety Improvements. The funding will be used to design the recommended alternative to widen the existing shoulders on Snake Road within the Miccosukee Tribe Reservation to address significant safety concerns. Two studies conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs concluded that Snake Road is in serious need of realignment and repair, where from 1997-2000 70 accidents occurred resulting in 6 deaths. The project would fund the alternative selected by the Florida Department of Transportation following a PD&E Study which has the least environmental impact and is the most cost effective. Total cost of the project is \$1,079,600. It is my understanding that the Tribe will provide the remaining funding necessary for the project to be completed as a local match.

Requesting Member: Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART (FL-25)

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act

Account: Department of Transportation, Federal Transit Authority, Capital Investment Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Miami-Dade County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 111 NW 1ST St, Suite 1032, Miami, FL 33128

Description of Request: I have secured \$20,000,000 for the Metrorail Orange Line Extension Project, FL. This funding will be used for Phase II and III of the Metrorail Extension Project, the North Corridor and East-West

Corridor, respectively. Phase II is in the final planning stage for the construction of a 9.2-mile Metrorail extension along NW 27th Avenue and Phase III is a proposed East-West Rapid Transit Corridor that will run some 10–13 miles East from the Miami Intermodal Center to Florida International University and points west. Metrorail began service in 1984 and currently operates 22.4-miles of rapid transit line, however the region has experienced tremendous growth in the last 24 years, most of it occurring outside the current system boundaries, and is in need of an expanded Metrorail system. This Rail extension will allow more options for commuters and visitors as well as improve safety on the roadways and be more environmentally-friendly. This project was authorized in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users in 2005. The total cost of this project is an estimated \$1.6 billion. It is my understanding that the Florida Department of Transportation will invest \$452,700,000 and the Miami-Dade County People's Transportation Plan will invest an additional \$452,700,000 as the local match for this project.

URGING KAZAKHSTAN TO COMPLY
AND HONOR ITS CONTRACTS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a growing concern facing a U.S. friend and ally in oil-rich Central Asia, Kazakhstan. In light of the heightened concern over the global oil supply shortage, we want to give special recognition to the critical role that Kazakhstan plays as a major world-wide supplier, and therefore we urge in particular that the Government of Kazakhstan step up to the demands. In so doing, Kazakhstan leaders should be very cognizant of the need to comply with the rule and sanctity of its contracts and do its best to ensure proper appropriation of profits to its citizens.

Recently, Transparency International ranked Kazakhstan 150 on its Corruption Perceptions Index, with the worst country ranked 179. This puts Kazakhstan only slightly ahead of Hugo Chavez's Venezuela. The costs of corruption are exceedingly high—both for the Kazakh people, international investors and consumers—and will surely lead to the corrosion of that society.

In recent years, Kazakhstan's economy has grown tremendously because of its large oil deposits, and the political elite have been successful in virtually monopolizing the benefits of this boom. But, regrettably, Kazakhstan has become a centralistic and authoritarian state under the 27 year rule of President Nursultan Nazarbayev with little leverage for the development and activity of civil society.

Kazakhstan's governmental system lacks the basic features of democracy; elections are neither free nor fair, there are few independent media outlets and what political opposition exists is manipulated, harassed, physically attacked or even killed. There is massive corruption on a grand scale in this environment of intra-elite allocation of benefits connected to oil production. Corruption in Kazakhstan is

systemic, even within the country's anti-corruption agency, and no public office is free from executive interference. Long wait times, unwieldy bureaucracy, weak business law, short deadlines, employee discontent and the absence of explanatory information all breed corruption. Foreign firms have frequently reported harassment by the Financial Police in the form of unannounced inspections and intimidation. Forbes Asia Magazine reported that AES Corporation, an American company and one of the largest power companies in the world faced this type of harassment in June 2005. The Forbes article titled "Thug Capitalism," reported that AES was subjected to Financial Police raids and was forced to pay up to \$200 million in fines before they decided they had enough and withdrew from Kazakhstan.

Exxon Mobil, which is also in the consortium with ConocoPhillips, Eni, Total and Royal Dutch Shell experienced similar problems with the Kashagan project. The Kazakh government has repeatedly used delays and cost overruns to renegotiate its original terms with the consortium, using negotiating tactics similar to those perfected by Russia to extract concessions from foreign energy investors.

Both the international investor community and the Kazakh people have every reason to be concerned over the Kazakh government's increasingly heavy-handed intrusion into business activity, especially in the energy sector. According to a recent report by ABC News: "The U.S. Department of Justice prosecutors have long alleged in court documents filed in a case against a U.S. businessman that President Nazarbayev and his deputies accepted nearly \$80 million in kickback from foreign companies in exchange for access to Kazakhstan's vast oilfields."

And perhaps the largest concern of all is the precedent set when this, or any, government is rampant with corrupt practices. Nations and lives become unglued. Take for instance the assassination attempt on the former head of Kazakhstan's National Security Service in Vienna. According to Radio Ekho Moskv, Alnur Musayev and his companion were both wounded; and simultaneously, that the ex-bassard of Kazakhstan in Austria who is also the former son-in-law of the Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Rikhat Aliyev, was targeted but escaped. These events were officially confirmed by the spokesman of the Austrian Office of Public Prosecutor, Gerhard Jarosh. Exiled citizens must not become targets of their home country. They must be free to live their lives and express themselves without threat of life or limb. Such is a fundamental right and expectation of all democracies and free nations.

Furthermore, the ex-Chairman of the National Security Committee of Kazakhstan was sentenced in absentia to 20 years of imprisonment. Rakhat Aliyev was also sentenced in absentia to 40 years in prison on multiple charges. However, when the Austrian Government investigated Kazakhstan's allegations of money laundering and corruption against Rakhat Aliyev, they found no evidence to substantiate such allegations, and thus have refused to extradite Mr. Aliyev for fear that he will never receive anything resembling a fair trial.

Such activities are all too reminiscent of a pattern of violence and corruption we have long seen in Russia, and nothing can be more

destabilizing both internally and externally. Moreover, these are not the qualities that we expect of the incoming Chair of the OSCE. Kazakhstan has made several promises to implement reforms that respect political freedoms and human rights. To date these reforms have not been implemented and on issues such as religious freedoms and freedom of the press, it is arguable that Kazakhstan is becoming more restrictive and less tolerant.

The United States has sought a mutually beneficial relationship with Kazakhstan and provides aid to Kazakhstan in order to enhance economic growth, democracy, security, civil society and attend to humanitarian needs. However, it is evident that the current U.S.-Kazakhstan relationship is compromised by Kazakhstan's record of human rights violations and lack of immediate and necessary reforms before ascending to the OSCE Chairmanship. The U.S. Department of State has criticized President Nursultan Nazarbayev's government for human rights violations. A report from March 2008 faulted the government for practices including "arbitrary arrest and detention", "restrictions on freedom of speech, the press, assembly, and association", "lack of an independent judiciary", "severe limits on citizens' rights to change their government," and more, including abuse of detainees and prisoners.

As an influential OSCE member and global leader, the U.S. must now more than ever, begin to raise questions regarding Kazakhstan's human rights record and about allegations that Kazakhstan has attempted to kidnap and injure its dissidents. Kidnapping and bodily harm have no place among nation states and Kazakhstan should be made to answer for any and all violations before it assumes the Chairmanship.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 5, 2009

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. 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 HR 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: HR 1105

Account: U.S. Department of Transportation/FHWA/Federal-Aid Highways

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: The City of Trenton

Address of Requesting Entity: Trenton City Hall, 319 E. State Street, Trenton, NJ 08608

Description of Request: I have secured \$188,750 in funding for the city of Trenton to capitalize on the economic potential generated by the new \$70 million Trenton Train Station rehabilitation project. The City of Trenton has a redevelopment plan for the area requiring upgrading some critical road, pedestrian, and other infrastructure. The City of Trenton also plans to fund this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

Bill Number: HR 1105