

Description of Request: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide \$285,000 in funding to widen approximately 5,400 linear feet of U.S. Highway 221 between the Hunter/Fleming-Smith Industrial Site and the City of Laurens. This highway improvement project will allow for increased volume and greater safety for commuter and truck traffic to and from the expanding Hunter/Fleming-Smith Industrial Site and surrounding areas. The Industrial Site plays an important role in the economic development of Laurens County. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of the Federal Highway Administration. In addition to this federal funding, Laurens will be providing approximately \$333,000 for the project. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: Division I, Title I Department of Transportation, Account: Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Orangeburg County, SC

Address of Requesting Entity: 1437 Amelia Street, Orangeburg, SC 29115

Description of Request: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide \$95,000 in funding for the installation of an interchange at the intersection of US Highway 301 and I-95 in Orangeburg County. Currently, U.S. Highway 301 stops at the intersection of I-95, causing the 301 traffic to enter onto an extremely busy portion of I-95 for just one mile in order to exit off onto Hwy 6. This highway improvement will help traffic flow more smoothly and support the planning for an intermodal transportation facility as well as distribution centers and transportation-related businesses. This interchange is included on the State Transportation Infrastructure Plan (STIP) as part of the Lower Savannah Long-Range Transportation Plan. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of the Federal Highway Administration and is a continuation of funding from fiscal year 2008. The County of Orangeburg has committed \$2 million to the project and the state of South Carolina has committed an additional \$3 million. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Congressman J. GRESHAM BARRETT

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Provision: Division I, Title I Department of Transportation, Account: Interstate Maintenance, Discretionary

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Orangeburg County, SC

Address of Requesting Entity: 1437 Amelia Street, Orangeburg, SC 29115

Description of Request: The purpose of this appropriation is to provide \$950,000 in funding for the installation of an interchange at the intersection of US Highway 301 and I-95 in Orangeburg County. Currently, U.S. Highway 301 stops at the intersection of I-95, causing the 301 traffic to enter onto an extremely busy portion of I-95 for just one mile in order to exit off onto Hwy 6. This highway improvement will help traffic flow more smoothly and support the planning for an intermodal transportation facility as well as distribution centers and transportation-related businesses. This interchange is included on the State Transportation Infrastructure Plan (STIP) as part of the Lower

Savannah Long-Range Transportation Plan. This request is consistent with the intended purpose of the Federal Highway Administration and is a continuation of funding from fiscal year 2008. The County of Orangeburg has committed \$2 million to the project and the state of South Carolina has committed an additional \$3 million. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS ACT,
2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, despite many severe misgivings I have with the legislation.

Last night the President gave us a frank and candid assessment of the dire situation of our economy, and I remain committed to ensuring that appropriations bills reflect an appropriate federal response. This bill will strengthen the social safety net so that individuals and families that have been affected by the recession can meet their daily needs. This bill includes substantial and badly needed increases in funding for food assistance to combat starvation and malnutrition in the elderly and those of modest income.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services has been inundated by a surge in unemployment claims. Constituents have called my office to tell me that they cannot even get through on the phone to speak to someone about their claim. Facing such an extraordinary increase in demand, I am glad that the states will get some help. The bill increases funding by 10% for state offices to process this surge in unemployment claims.

Cleveland, unfortunately, has been at the epicenter of the subprime mortgage and foreclosure crisis. The number of foreclosures continues to increase; some neighborhoods still average two foreclosures per day. Up to 6,000 voucher holders have yet to find affordable housing in Cuyahoga County—and this does not include the estimated 19,000 people who qualify for vouchers but are forced to endure a years-long waiting list.

The bill increases overall funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development by 10%. This includes increases in funding for the Public Housing Operating Fund to keep the doors open in our existing public housing, the Public Housing Capital Fund to build new public housing, and tenant- and project-based voucher programs. The bill also increases funding for homeless assistance grants.

The bill provides several other funding increases in areas of particular need for Northeast Ohio. There is \$187 million dedicated to making emergency communication more reliable through interoperability funding. There is a \$385 million increase in funding for NASA, an economic anchor for the region and the state. There is \$273 million for research on more fuel-efficient vehicles, which will help our ailing auto industry and the other industries on which it relies. There is \$40.7 billion in infrastructure funding, a \$484 million increase over

FY08 levels and an integral part of Northeast Ohio's economic recovery.

However, I am deeply saddened and frustrated by sections of the State and Foreign Operations portion of this bill that continue counterproductive policies regarding the Middle East and drug policy. I am hopeful that with the leadership of President Obama a new U.S. policy on the Middle East will emerge. It is time for the U.S. to move beyond the biased policy contained in this portion of the bill.

The surest way for this body to ensure the safety and security of Israel while encouraging peace in the Middle East is to craft a policy that encourages Israel to end the blockade of Gaza and the occupation of Palestinian lands. The U.S. must also call on Israel to implement a freeze on settlement building.

Instead this bill undermines any effort to position the U.S. as an honest broker for peace in the region. The bill gives \$75 million in funding for aid to be shared between Gaza and the West Bank while giving \$2.4 billion in grants for Israel including \$670 million for procurement of military equipment alone. Adding to this extreme imbalance, the bill also places far more restrictions on the humanitarian aid to Gaza than on the arms funding for Israel. If the U.S. was an honest broker of peace, the reverse would be true. The United Nations has declared in no uncertain terms that peace in the Middle East, which is the best way for Israel to achieve security, cannot be achieved militarily. By favoring arms over aid, this bill takes us in the wrong direction during a time when relations between Gaza and Israel are particularly strained.

This bill also includes funding for counter-narcotics initiatives in Afghanistan, Mexico, Colombia, and other regions in Latin America, continuing supply-side interdiction efforts that have done nothing to disturb the flow of illicit drugs into our country. Research clearly demonstrates that money directed to domestic demand-reduction efforts—drug treatment, drug abuse prevention, youth intervention programs, and the like—is more effective at reducing drug consumption and curtailing the flow of illicit drugs into the country. Moreover, such efforts usually increase the price of drugs in circulation, which only leads to increased violence and crime in communities. So long as the demand for a product exists, enterprising drug dealers will find a way to get the drugs to those addicted to them.

I support this bill because the needs of my district come first, and the money in this bill will go far toward alleviating the stress on my constituents and my district caused by the economic downturn. However, I find it reprehensible that I am also forced to support these other provisions, and I look forward to working with leadership and the Administration to support policies that engage all parties and encourage peace rather than aggression.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PATENT
REFORM ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today we are pleased to introduce the Patent Reform Act of 2009. The Patent Reform Act of 2009

is bipartisan and largely, bicameral legislation intended to tackle a number of problems in our patent system. The bill reflects the substantial progress made last Congress in both the House and Senate. Indeed, the text of the Patent Reform Act is in many ways a composite of the bill that passed the House and the bill that was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee last Congress.

This bill is a starting point for further discussion and in the matter of inequitable conduct reform, I will be looking to my friend from Utah, ORRIN HATCH for his insights on that issue. It is my intention to work closely with him to craft language on inequitable conduct that can be incorporated into the bill at a later time.

I am proud to stand today with my colleagues, Representatives LAMAR SMITH, HOWARD BERMAN, ROBERT GOODLATTE, and SHEILA JACKSON LEE to introduce this legislation that is directed toward encouraging innovation now and long into the 21st century. I particularly thank two of my cosponsors, HOWARD BERMAN and LAMAR SMITH, for their hard work and dedication to this endeavor through the years which has provided a common-sense framework of reforms upon which to build.

This piece of legislation is among the most important things that we will work on as our Nation's economic future is dependent on our ability to innovate and efficiently and effectively protect the products of that innovation. I look forward to working with all interested parties in perfecting the Patent Reform Act in the coming months.

APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION TO THOMAS WOODWARD

HON. JOHN M. SPRATT, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the service of Thomas Woodward, who is retiring on March 6 after serving the Congress with distinction for 30 years in an extraordinary variety of ways and places. This nation and this Congress owe a great debt of gratitude to this outstanding public servant. Tom may be the only person—and if not, is certainly one of very few—who has worked at GAO, CRS, and CBO. He began his government service in 1979 at GAO, where he first became involved in analyzing the economy and helped produced GAO's economic outlook. In 1982, Tom went to work for the Congressional Research Service, where he was a specialist in macroeconomics in the Economics Division and produced a number of studies on the banking system, monetary policy, and other issues. Tom was detailed to the House Budget Committee in 1991 and 1992, where he served as Chief Economist for the Republican staff. Tom returned to CRS after his service on the Budget Committee and continued to produce and supervise high quality analyses for members of Congress.

In 1998, Tom became Assistant Director for Tax Analysis at the Congressional Budget Office. For the past 11 years, Tom has overseen the production of numerous studies, revenue forecasts, and cost estimates for committees and Members of Congress. In all of his inter-

actions with Members and their staff, Tom maintained the high quality and timely analyses that we have come to expect of CBO. Tom's breadth of knowledge, objective analyses, and good humor are appreciated by everyone who works with him—and next week, for the first time in 30 years, this Congress will not have the benefit of his wisdom, economic knowledge, and analytical skills as it addresses the critical public policy issues that face the nation. I understand he plans to continue to research economic issues after his retirement from Congressional service, and we look forward to that work and wish him well in his retirement.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership Standards on Earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of the FY2009 Omnibus.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING
Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Energy & Water—Army Corps of Engineers (Construction)

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

Address of Requesting Entity: 26 Federal Plaza, Room 2109, New York, NY 10278

Description of Request: \$2,010,000 to the Army Corps to complete the reformulation study and continue monitoring a project to protect Long Island's south shore from beach erosion and storm damage. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING
Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Energy & Water—Army Corps of Engineers (Construction)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Town of Babylon

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 East Sunrise Highway, Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Description of Request: \$465,000 for the dredging of a federal channel and placement of appx. 1 million cubic yards of sand along the shoreline for erosion control at Gilgo Beach and Robert Moses State Park. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING
Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Energy & Water—Army Corps of Engineers (Investigations)

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Village of Bayville

Address of Requesting Entity: 34 School Street, Bayville, NY 11709

Description of Request: \$96,000 to complete the feasibility phase of the benefits of a storm damage protection project in Bayville. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING
Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Labor, HHS, & Education—Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Suffolk County Volunteer Firefighter Burn Center Fund

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 765 Smithtown, NY 11787

Description of Request: \$285,000 for a living skin bank clean room (equipment). I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING
Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Labor, HHS, & Education—Health Resources and Services Administration, Health Facilities and Services

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Christa House

Address of Requesting Entity: 720 Albin Avenue, West Babylon, NY 11704

Description of Request: \$176,000 for hospice care for the poor (physical repairs, administrative costs, and insurance). I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING
Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation & HUD—Capital Investment Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: New York City Metro Transit Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 347 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10017

Description of Request: \$209,623,898 for the development of Long Island Rail Road East Side Access. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING
Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Commerce, Justice, & Science—NOAA (Operations, Research & Facilities)
Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Partnership for Mid-Atlantic Fisheries Science

Address of Requesting Entity: 526 Bay Avenue Point Pleasant Beach, NJ 08742

Description of Request: \$1,000,000 for a multi-state research initiative in New York and New Jersey to address data limitations restricting management of summer flounder in the Mid-Atlantic. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING
Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: State & Foreign Operations—Educational & Cultural Exchange Programs

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: U.S.-Ireland Alliance

Address of Requesting Entity: 2800 Clarendon Boulevard Arlington, VA 22201

Description of Request: \$500,000 for the George Mitchell Scholarship Program a nationally competitive scholarship award for 12 US college graduates to do a year of post-graduate study at universities in Ireland and Northern Ireland. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING
Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation & HUD—Transportation, Community, & System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Glen Cove

Address of Requesting Entity: 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542

Description of Request: \$570,000 for the design, engineering, and construction of the Glen Cove Connector Road. I certify that neither I nor my spouse has any financial interest in this project.

Requesting Member: Rep. PETER KING