

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Naval Surface Warfare Center, Corona Division.

Address of Requesting Entity: Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona Division, 2300 Fifth St., Norco, CA 92860.

Description of Request: I have received congressional authorization in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (NDAA FY09) for a requested project in the amount of \$2,000,000. The authorization is for a project which would continue work in the areas of Primary and Depot Maintenance calibration standards. Specifically the work will be done in the technology areas of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC), electro-optics, and physical-mechanical. The purpose of the work is to ensure measurement accuracy in support and maintenance of new advanced technology weapon systems, current weapon systems and associated support equipment. Specifically, the funding also continues efforts of calibration standards (hardware) in support of Nanoscale Dimensional Standards using Atomic Force Microscopy (AFM). Standards developed through this ongoing program provides continued measurement support and capability to ensure that our nation's advanced weapon systems operate as designed and detectors accurately recognize threats.

Requesting Member: Congressman KEN CALVERT.

Bill Number: S. 3001.

Account: Defense Wide—Research, Development, Test & Evaluation.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Center for Nonoscale Science and Engineering, University of California, Riverside.

Address of Requesting Entity: 900 University Avenue, Riverside, California 92521.

Description of Request: I have received congressional authorization in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009 (NDAA FY09) for a requested project in the amount of \$3,000,000 for 3D-electronics technology. This project aims to take advantage of recent advances in nanomaterials and nanodevices to begin to address the issue necessary to take the electronics industry beyond the two-dimensional silicon based devices and wiring and to develop high density, 3D-electronics technology together with associated packaging, protable power sources and heat dissipation solutions. UC Riverside has substantial expertise in the development of nanomaterials that offer extraordinary properties when properly engineered for these applications. The proposed effort will fund technology development studies in the following five areas: 3D integration of RF and Digital technologies; materials development for thermal management; materials development for 3D wiring; materials development for multi-technology isolation; and development of process equipment for advanced 3D processes and materials manufacturing. The availability of new approaches to very high density electronics and compact power sources that are built from the new generation of nanomaterials will greatly aid the DoD mission in providing advanced electronics and power in the battlefield.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of S. 3001, the Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act:

Requesting Member: Representative GUS M. BILIRAKIS.

Bill Number: S. 3001.

Account: Aircraft Procurement Army.

Names and Addresses of Requesting Entities: Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, 6900 Main Street, Stratford, CT 06615; Pall Aeropower Corporation, 10540 Ridge Road, New Port Richey, FL 34654.

Description of Request: This earmark provides an additional \$5,000,000 to modernize the National Guard H-60 Black Hawk helicopter fleet. The UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter is an essential capability of the National Guard. It provides units in every State with a multi-mission aircraft for search & rescue, utility lift, disaster relief and medical evacuation. The Army National Guard (ARNG) is authorized 782 Black Hawk aircraft but is short of this authorization by almost 100 aircraft. This shortage requires ARNG units to loan or transfer Black Hawks in support deployments, training or state missions, resulting in a higher usage rate of available airframes. Additionally, more than 500 of the 782 National Guard aircraft are older UH-60A models, with an average age of approximately 25 years.

The Army is procuring over 1,200 UH-60M Black Hawks for utility, special operations and MEDEVAC missions to replace the aging UH-60A from operational units by 2016. The Army acquired 33 UH-60M Black Hawks by the end of FY07, and from FY09 to FY13, the Army plans to procure an additional 300 UH-60M Black Hawks (70 of those aircraft are programmed for ARNG units). However, without an accelerated procurement of the UH-60M, the Army National Guard will be operating more than 400 UH-60A helicopters beyond 2020.

The ARNG and the Active Army developed a program to support the continued modernization of the ARNG Black Hawk fleet. Unfortunately, this program is not fully funded. The ARNG plan is to accelerate the fielding of UH-60M Black Hawks by 10 aircraft per year. Although the Active Army has programmed UH-60A recapitalization for the ARNG with Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funds, which includes an airframe life extension, fleet-wide product improvements, and the replacement of components, the UH-60A to L upgrade is not funded.

The UH-60L Black Hawk is more economical to operate and has 1000 lbs of additional lift than the UH-60A. The desired rate of UH-60A to L upgrades is 38 per year. Funding the UH-60A to L upgrade will significantly improve the Black Hawk fleet and assure that ARNG units are ready, deployable, and available to protect our national interests both abroad and at home.

This ARNG aviation initiative has been identified by the Chief of the National Guard Bureau (CNGB) as a FY09 Essential 10—Top 25 unfunded priorities.

Requesting Member: Representative GUS M. BILIRAKIS.

Bill Number: S. 3001

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF POLYCRYSTALLINE LASER GAIN MATERIALS

Account: Defense Production Act Purchases.

Names and address of Requesting Entity: VLOC Incorporated, 7826 Photonics Drive, New Port Richey, FL 34655.

Description of Request: This earmark provides \$5,200,000 for the domestic production of transparent polycrystalline laser gain materials for defense critical materials required for the Department of Defense's next-generation tactical laser systems. The Department of Defense is funding the development of laser platforms that generate 100 kilowatts of output power in an all-solid-state design with field testing starting within the next 12 months. In order to generate this level of operational power, new and unique laser materials must be produced domestically in commercial quantities. Recent laser demonstrations utilizing polycrystalline materials manufactured exclusively overseas indicate that transparent polycrystalline laser gain materials, that use nano-particle powders, do in fact allow laser designers to demonstrate these higher levels of output power (the DoD/JTO-mandated 100 kW). Under previous forward-leaning research funded by the AFRL, U.S. industry was able to research and test innovative growth technologies, infrastructure improvements, and advanced materials analysis of these new ceramic laser gain materials. By leveraging this previous R&D funding, it is expected that full domestic production with volumes to meet all of the current DoD needs will be completed within 36 months.

These funds will be used for infrastructure improvements, labor and overhead, nano-powder testing and production, production hardening of the domestic manufacturing of the polycrystalline laser gain materials, fabrication, characterization and dielectric coatings of the laser gain slabs.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS SECURITY PROGRAM

Account: Procurement

Names and address of Requesting Entity: Green Hills Software, 34125 US Hwy 19 North, Suite 100, Palm Harbor, FL 34684.

Description of Request: This earmark provides \$2,000,000 for the Information Systems Security Program which would be spent over the course of the fiscal year. As the Department of Defense moves to full deployment of the Global Information Grid (GIG), the need for High Assurance Secure capabilities becomes more critical and more pervasive. Simply put, increased sharing increases network vulnerabilities; and compromise of US or coalition resources could have serious consequences to our nation's security. This project would implement high assurance software to achieve more security with higher levels of access control across security domains from Unclassified to Top Secret. Without this capability, the Global Information Grid's functions cannot be fully exploited. In addition, creating an architecture that allows classified and unclassified resources to be combined will result in a significant cost savings to the government as redundant classified and unclassified systems are eliminated.

OPTIC BAND CONTROL PROGRAM:

Account: Materials.

Names and address of Requesting Entity: Eclipse Energy Systems, 2537 Ham Blvd, Suite 1, Clearwater, FL 33764.

Description of Request: This earmark provides \$800,000 for the Optic Band Control Program (OBC) which focuses on advanced infrared filter technology for a wide range of Department of Defense interests. There is an urgent need for advancement of technology necessary for blocking certain wavelengths while allowing other wavelengths to pass through a filter. This is necessary for laser threat protection as well as more precise chemical and biological sensors and camera/reconnaissance systems. The funds will be used for equipment purchases, software modeling and design, machine operation and related engineering tasks.

NATIONAL FUNCTIONAL GENOMICS CENTER

Account: Medical Advanced Technology.

Names and address of Requesting Entity: Moffitt Cancer Center, 12902 Magnolia Drive, Tampa, FL 33612.

Description of Request: This earmark provides \$6,000,000 for the National Functional Genomics Center which conducts applied research for the Department of Defense for the discovery of molecular signatures for cancers and the accelerated development of new personalized drugs based on each individual's molecular fingerprint to treat cancer. This research directly translates into reduced financial costs and morbidity associated with cancer treatment in the military and results in reduced disruption to the active duty soldier.

Name of Requesting Member: Congressman GUS M. BILIRAKIS.

Bill Number: S. 3001.

Account: FEMA Predisaster Mitigation.

Legal Name/Address of Requesting Entity: Pinellas County, Florida, 315 Court Street, Clearwater, Florida 33756.

Description: This funding will complete the infrastructure hardening of the existing Pinellas County facility housing Emergency Medical Services (EMS) equipment, supplies, and operations. The EMS facilities serve as a countywide base-of-operations during and post-disaster for more than 80 emergency personnel as well as the County's radio communications, Fire and EMS dispatch, 911 dispatch, Fire and EMS administration, and EMS response.

Funding will support roof analysis and installation of new roof systems, installation of fastening/bracing equipment, strengthening sections of walls with additional structural steel, and upgrading of the generator and mechanical systems to assure continuance of emergency activities during storms and other emergency events.

I believe that the use of these federal funds are justified because this project advances the goals of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 100-107) for implementation of pre-disaster mitigation measures in states and localities that are cost effective and designed to reduce injuries and loss of life.

The project also advances the goals of FEMA's Predisaster Mitigation Fund, which finances projects for infrastructure improvements, analysis, and other activities for disaster mitigation.

Spending Plan: These federal funds will support exceptional one-time construction costs. Pinellas County will provide fifty percent (\$1,000,000) of total project cost (\$2,000,000).

Pinellas County provides ongoing service and operational costs.

SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY IN BANGLADESH

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, thank you to Representative CROWLEY for his excellent work on this resolution.

I rise today in support of this important resolution and in support of free and fair elections.

Bangladesh, the world's third most populated Muslim country, must return to the fold of democracy and uphold the most basic human rights—the right to vote. Over the past two years, the people of Bangladesh have lived under a state of emergency. As the resolution outlines, the rights of the press have been curtailed and corruption is running rampant.

We all know that a nation can only succeed when it heeds the will of the people. Security—both economic and political—cannot be established while citizens are being ignored and repressed.

Bangladesh must hold free, fair, credible, peaceful, and transparent elections. I urge support of House Resolution 1402.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5244, the Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act. This legislation is timely and necessary, and importantly, it should alleviate the economic woes that consumers are experiencing during these tough economic times. The purpose of this bill is to provide crucial protections against unfair, but unfortunately common, credit card practices.

While the Federal Reserve will likely issue regulations on this same topic, it is important that we as legislators do not abdicate our responsibility to the Administration. As members of Congress, we must do all that we can to ensure that the credit interests of the American people are well taken care of. Any regulation passed by the Federal Reserve will likely be the subject of judicial challenge. Thus, legislation will be needed.

H.R. 5244, ends unfair, arbitrary interest rate increases by preventing card companies from unfairly increasing interest rates on existing card balances. The bill makes clear that retroactive increases are permitted only if a cardholder is more than 30 days late, if a pre-agreed promotional rate expires, or if the rate adjusts as part of a variable rate. Under this bill, a credit card company has to give 45 days notice of all interest rate increases so consumers can pay off their balances and shop for a better deal elsewhere.

This bill is the first of its kind to stop excessive "over-the-limit" fees and it ends unfair

penalties for cardholders who pay their balances in full on time. H.R. 5244 also protects cardholders from due date gimmicks and prevents companies from using misleading terms and damaging consumers' credit ratings. Perhaps, most important is that the bill protects vulnerable consumers from high-fee subprime credit cards and it bars issuing credit cards to minors. This bill should help Americans and will require credit companies to employ fair credit card practices.

I recognize that the credit card industry and other members of the financial services community may oppose this bill. They argue that the limits this legislation would place on the competitive market come with unintended consequences, such as higher costs for consumers and reduced access to credit. The legislation would also result in the elimination of policies that benefit consumers, and disregards efforts by Federal regulators to complete and promulgate new credit card regulations.

Opponents of H.R. 5244 claim that the bill includes a number of prescriptive mandates that will increase costs and/or limit options that consumers have today. For example, the cost associated with requirements that dictate how a customer's payment can be attributed to their outstanding balance will likely result in the end of promotional rate offers. Importantly, these opponents do not indicate that the consumers will be provided with more disclosure and fair and accurate information on rates that will not likely be changed by the credit card companies.

It is immaterial that the Federal Reserve will be issuing regulations that govern credit card practices. It is the purview of this Congress to legislate and it is by legislative authority that agencies promulgate regulations. I do not find the arguments in opposition to this bill to be persuasive.

The credit card market is highly competitive. Although we are experiencing tough economic times and the credit card companies are feeling economic pressure, so too, are the American consumers. The consumers are merely working-class people. If the credit card companies think they are squeezed, imagine the plight of the American people. Something must be done.

H.R. 5244 is balanced and is a step in the right direction. I support the bill and I look forward to working with the credit card industry and the consumers on this very important issue.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

CREDIT CARDHOLDERS' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5244, Credit Cardholders' Bill of Rights Act of 2008.

With wages stagnating and turmoil afflicting our entire financial industry, this bill will help the many Americans who are falling deeper into debt. Over the last several years the average American household's credit card debt has risen dramatically, from \$2,966 in 1990 to