

Amount: \$428,000
 Project Name: Southeast Georgia Health System
 Bill Number: H.R. 1105
 Account: Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration
 Requesting Entity: Southeast Georgia Health System
 Address of Requesting Entity: 2415 Parkwood Drive, Brunswick, GA 31520
 Description of Request: Purchase of medical equipment.
 Amount: \$381,000

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 EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, consistent with the Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman BILL SHUSTER (PA-9).

Bill Number: H.R. 1105—FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

Division B—Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies.

Project Name: Operation Our Town.

Account: OJP—Byrne Discretionary Grants.
 Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Operation Our Town.

Address of Requesting Entity: 5506 6th Avenue Rear, Altoona, PA 16602.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

\$300,000 for Operation Our Town.

It is my understanding that funding for this project will be used to facilitate partnerships between community and business leaders to fight illegal drug use and crime through proven law enforcement, treatment, and prevention strategies. Operation Our Town focuses on coordinating resources to reduce the threats faced by drugs and related crimes as part of the ongoing national war on drugs and gangs.

It is also my understanding that approximately 33 percent of funding would be used for coordination with law enforcement, approximately 17 percent of funding would be used for prevention, approximately 17 percent of funding would be used for treatment, approximately 30 percent of funding would be used for blight eradication, and approximately 3 percent would be used for other expenses.

Project Name: Franklin County Emergency Services Alliance—Interoperable Communications Initiative.

Account: COPS Law Enforcement Technology.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Franklin County Emergency Services Alliance.

Address of Requesting Entity: 4 North Main Street, Chambersburg, PA 17201.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

\$500,000 for Interoperable Communications Initiative.

It is my understanding that funding for this project will be used to purchase and upgrade equipment for first responders in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Improved equipment will increase emergency, disaster assistance, and recovery efforts.

Increased interoperability will greatly improve the ability of Franklin County to assist in supporting critical response efforts for nearby major metropolitan areas and federal facilities including Baltimore, MD, Washington, DC, Harrisburg, PA, Letterkenny Army Depot (PA), Camp David (MD), and Fort Detrick (MD).

It is also my understanding that funding will be used for the acquisition of emergency services communications units, with approximately 40 percent of funding used to acquire portable units, approximately 40 percent of funding used to acquire base and mobile units, and approximately 20 percent of funding used to acquire pager units.

Project Name: Saint Francis University Center for Global Competitiveness.

Account: International Trade Administration.
 Legal Name of Requesting Entity: St. Francis University.

Address of Requesting Entity: 117 Evergreen Drive, Loretto, PA 15940.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

\$350,000 for Saint Francis University Center for Global Competitiveness.

It is my understanding that funding for this project will be used to create jobs and stimulate economic development by assisting local small and medium sized businesses.

Specifically, the Saint Francis University Center for Global Competitiveness provides specialized marketing assistance to small and medium sized global businesses in a ten county region helping them to become more competitive in a global economy including international trade and expansion into domestic markets.

It is also my understanding that approximately 50 percent of funding will be used for labor costs, approximately 40 percent of funding will be used for coordination with Saint Vincent College, and approximately 10 percent of funding will be used for equipment and other expenses.

Division C—Energy and Water Development.

Project Name: South Central Pennsylvania Environmental Improvement Program.

Account: Corps of Engineers, Construction.
 Legal Name of Requesting Entity: US Army Corps of Engineers—Baltimore District.

Address of Requesting Entity: 10 South Howard Street, Baltimore, MD 21201.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

\$4.5 million for South Central Environmental Infrastructure.

It is my understanding that funding for the South Central Pennsylvania Environmental Improvement Program will provide design and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects in South Central Pennsylvania. The program provides the funding necessary for local communities to install basic sewer and water systems and is a key aspect of building and enhancing infrastructure for many rural communities in Pennsylvania. The program was authorized in the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-580).

It is also my understanding that funding will be administered by the US Army Corps of Engineers as authorized to provide design and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects in South Central Pennsylvania.

Project Name: Juniata Hybrid Locomotive.

Account: Department of Energy, EERE.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Pennsylvania State University.

Address of Requesting Entity: 17 Old Main, University Park, PA 16802.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

\$713,625 for Juniata Hybrid Locomotive.

It is my understanding that funding for this project will be used to assess and develop technological alternatives to diesel locomotives and to develop a more energy efficient and environmentally friendly locomotive for yard, local, and main line applications. Associated with this research effort is the development of energy management and control technologies required to maximize the energy efficiency of hybrid locomotives. Converting the existing locomotive fleet to new technologies would reduce both emissions and our dependence on foreign oil, reducing impacts on the environment and improving our national and energy security.

It is also my understanding that approximately 20 percent of funding would be used for labor costs, approximately 20 percent of funding would be used for engineering consultants, approximately 20 percent of funding would be used for charger components, and approximately 40 percent of funding would be used for locomotive components.

Division E—Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

Project Name: Flight 93 National Memorial.
 Account: National Park Service, Construction.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National Park Service.

Address of Requesting Entity: 109 West Main Street, Suite 104, Somerset, PA 15501.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

\$1.2 million for Flight 93 National Memorial.

It is my understanding that funding will be used for construction costs at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. The Flight 93 National Memorial honors the men and women who gave their lives in the first counterattack of the Global War on Terror on September 11, 2001.

The Flight 93 National Memorial Act (P.L. 107-226) established the creation of the Flight 93 National Memorial "to commemorate the passengers and crew of United Flight 93 who, on September 11, 2001, courageously gave their lives thereby thwarting a planned attack on our Nation's Capital."

It is also my understanding that funding will be used by the National Park Service as authorized for construction and associated costs such as design development and construction management at the Flight 93 National Memorial.

Project Name: Historic Mishler Theatre.

Account: National Park Service, Save America's Treasures.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Blair County Arts Foundation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 1212 Twelfth Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

\$150,000 for the Historic Mishler Theatre.

It is my understanding that funding for this project will be used for renovations to the Mishler Theatre in Blair County, Pennsylvania. Known for its cultural and architectural significance and listed on the National Register of

Historical Places, renovations to the Mishler Theatre are vital to preserving and restoring this vibrant center for the arts.

It is also my understanding that funding will be used for the acquisition costs, labor, and construction related to improvements of the facility for performers and patrons.

Division F—Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies.

Project Name: Altoona Regional Health System, Equipment.

Account: Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services Administration (HRSA)—Health Facilities and Services.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Altoona Regional Health System.

Address of Requesting Entity: 620 Howard Avenue, Altoona, PA 16601.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

\$238,000 for Altoona Regional Health System for facilities and equipment.

It is my understanding that funding for this project will be used to purchase digital mammography and radiology equipment in preparation for developing a breast imaging center. This project will ensure improved accessibility for residents in Blair County and surrounding areas to state of the art breast imaging to replace traditional film-based mammography.

It is also my understanding that funding will be used for the purchase of digital mammography screening equipment and radiology work station equipment. 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: Nason Hospital, Equipment.

Account: Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services Administration (HRSA)—Health Facilities and Services.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Nason Hospital.

Address of Requesting Entity: 105 Nason Drive, Roaring Spring, PA 16673.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

\$143,000 for Nason Hospital, Roaring Spring, PA for purchase of equipment.

It is my understanding that funding for this project will be used to purchase a high definition camera system for orthopedic arthroscopic procedures. This equipment will increase productivity within the operating room and produce more confident diagnoses, benefiting both patients and physicians.

It is my understanding that approximately 75 percent of funding will be used for equipment and installation and 25 percent of funding will be used for a service agreement. 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: Somerset Hospital, Equipment.

Account: Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services Administration (HRSA)—Health Facilities and Services.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Somerset Hospital.

Address of Requesting Entity: 225 South Central Avenue, Somerset, PA 15501.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

\$190,000 for Somerset Hospital, Somerset, PA for facilities and equipment.

It is my understanding that funding for this project will be used to purchase equipment to increase patient safety, enhance efficiency, and reduce operational costs. These technology upgrades will greatly benefit residents of the Somerset, Pennsylvania area.

It is also my understanding that approximately 15 percent of funding would be used for a pharmacy system/bar coding, approximately 60 percent of funding would be used for electronic medical records, and approximately 25 percent of funding would be used for physician order entry system. I also understand that the funding provided is only a piece of the total funding required for this project and anticipated allocations may change.

Division I—Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

Project Name: AMTRAN Transit System Improvement.

Account: Department of Transportation, Buses and Bus Facilities.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: AMTRAN.

Address of Requesting Entity: 3301 Fifth Avenue, Altoona, PA 16602.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

\$475,000 for Bus Facility, AMTRAN Transit System.

It is my understanding that funding for this project will be used by AMTRAN, the local transit system in Altoona, PA, for improvements to their system. Specifically, it is my understanding that these funds will be used for a new bus facility.

It is also my understanding that approximately 40 percent of funding will be used for real estate acquisition, approximately 10 percent of funding will be used for environmental mitigation, approximately 10 percent of funding will be used for demolition and site preparation, and approximately 40 percent will be used for building renovation. 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: Flight 93 National Memorial, Public Lands Transportation Needs.

Account: Federal Lands (Public Lands Highways).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: National Park Service.

Address of Requesting Entity: 109 West Main Street, Suite 104, Somerset, PA 15501.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

\$4.275 million for Flight 93 National Memorial, Public Lands Transportation Needs.

It is my understanding that funding for this project will be used by the National Park Service for road, parking, and utility improvements related to the Flight 93 National Memorial. The Flight 93 National Memorial honors the men and women who gave their lives in the first counterattack of the Global War on Terror on September 11, 2001.

The Flight 93 National Memorial Act (P.L. 107–226) established the creation of the Flight 93 National Memorial “to commemorate the passengers and crew of United Flight 93 who, on September 11, 2001, courageously gave their lives thereby thwarting a planned attack on our Nation’s Capital.”

It is also my understanding that funding will be used by the National Park Service for construction costs.

Project Name: Hollidaysburg Car Shop Redevelopment Project.

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

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Altoona-Blair County Development Corporation.

Address of Requesting Entity: 3900 Industrial Park Drive, Altoona, PA 16602.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

\$95,000 for transformation of the current facility into one that can be utilized for manufacturing, contributing to economic development and stimulating job creation.

It is my understanding that funding for this project will be used to support redevelopment efforts for the former Hollidaysburg Car Shop property based upon a recently completed redevelopment strategy and plan to promote job retention activities and economic development.

It is also my understanding that funding will be used for activities related to site preparation, building improvements, and environmental remediation. 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: Altoona Recreational Facility.

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

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Central Blair Recreation and Park Commission.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2101 Fifth Avenue, Altoona, Pennsylvania 16602.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

\$71,250 for development of a multi-faceted outdoor park for the local community.

It is my understanding that funding for this project will be used for the development of a multi-faceted outdoor park for the local community. The facility will offer a safe and positive environment for young people and provide safe alternatives to the temptations of drug use, gangs, and violence.

It is also my understanding that funding will be used for construction and related costs associated with skateboard ramps, playground equipment, trails, pavilions, and restroom facilities. 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: Indiana County Business and Industrial Park.

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

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Indiana County Commissioners.

Address of Requesting Entity: 825 Philadelphia Street, Indiana, PA 15701.

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding:

\$190,000 for acquisition and development of a new pad ready business/industrial park consisting of approximately 150–200 acres.

It is my understanding that funding for this project will be used for the development of a new industrial park to help serve the growing economy of the region. The project will assist in the growth of an emerging technology and manufacturing market. I further understand that it is estimated the completion of the new industrial park will create 300 to 500 new jobs.

It is also my understanding that funding will be used for all development phases including

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.