

Description of Request: I have secured \$190,000 in funding in H.R. 1105 in the Economic Development Initiatives account for the Center for Innovation. The funding will be used to complete The Center for Innovation at Arlington, TX.

### INFRASTRUCTURE ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS

#### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a letter to the Honorable NANCY PELOSI, the Honorable JOHN OLVER, and the Honorable DAVE OBEY from myself and Chairwoman CORRINE BROWN regarding infrastructure enhancement projects included in the economic stimulus bill and the potential impact on existing utility infrastructure.

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 12, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Office of the Speaker, H-232, U.S. Capitol,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN OLVER,  
Chairman, Trans-HUD Subcommittee, Room  
2358-A, Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC.

Hon. DAVE OBEY,  
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee, H-  
218, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR COLLEAGUES: As the Chairwoman and Ranking Member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee, we wanted to take this opportunity to bring to your attention a serious issue impacting utility infrastructure and ratepayers.

The economic stimulus bill that we are debating directs billion of dollars toward infrastructure enhancement projects—with a significant portion allocated for highway construction. As is common with highway projects, their construction may require the relocation of existing utility infrastructure located within the existing public right-of-way or adjacent to the right-of-way, including natural gas distribution pipelines and power lines (both overhead and underground). With the substantial increase in federal funding provided by the stimulus package to states, counties and cities for highway projects, it is our understanding that utilities want to make sure that their customers are not asked to absorb major new and unforeseen costs.

As you may know, the current blueprint for how natural gas and electric utilities are reimbursed for these relocation costs is not uniform. Some states have laws or policies that allow for federal highway funds to be used to cover all or a portion of the costs of relocation. However, in many states, utilities are not reimbursed and these costs are ultimately borne by utility ratepayers. These increased costs to ratepayers could potentially negatively impact the goals of the stimulus package by creating a de facto "economic stimulus bill" surcharge in their utility rates.

Additionally, pipeline and power line relocation associated with highway construction are often hampered by a lack of coordination and communication between the highway authorities and utilities. This can result in project delays and interruption of utility service. With the large number of projects that will be funded by the stimulus, there is a need for an effective consultative process under which utility companies and highway project managers would discuss and can reach agreement on construction scheduling. Such

a process would allow all parties to discuss the timing of construction and relocation and secure the availability of labor and material so that the projects funded by the stimulus bill can advance expeditiously.

Let's make these taxpayer dollars work effectively by ensuring that highway infrastructure projects not only proceed in a coordinated and efficient manner but also allow utilities to be fairly reimbursed.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to working with you to advance the economy of our country while protecting the interests of taxpayers and utility rate payers.

Sincerely,

BILL SHUSTER,  
Member of Congress.  
CORRINE BROWN,  
Member of Congress.

### EARMARK DECLARATION

#### HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

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

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service—SRG.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Address of Requesting Entity: 102 Agriculture Hall, East Lansing, Michigan 48824.

Description of Request: Provide \$266,000 for Sustainable Agriculture: Expanding and Refining the Ecosystem Base (Sustainable Agriculture). The funding will be used for research to assist farmers on sustainable agriculture practices to help farmers manage their crops for excellent yields, while reducing fertilizer and pesticide use and stemming nutrient losses to ground and surface water. Approximately, \$385,000 is for salaries of 11 researchers; \$15,000 is for travel expenses; \$10,000 is for farmer stipends; \$25,000 is for materials and supplies; and \$65,000 is for communication and outreach. Michigan State University expects to leverage at least \$150,000 in state, local, and private funds.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service—SRG.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Address of Requesting Entity: 102 Agriculture Hall, East Lansing, Michigan 48824.

Description of Request: Provide \$346,000 for Phytophthora Capsici research. The funding will be used for researching this fungal-like pathogen that lives in the soil and causes plants to rot. This funding will go towards salaries of researchers, laboratory and field equipment, travel expenses, and publication or results. This program receives other federal/state/local/industry funding.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service—SRG.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Address of Requesting Entity: 102 Agriculture Hall, East Lansing, Michigan 48824.

Description of Request: Provide \$346,000 for Controlling Fire Blight Disease of Apple Trees. The funding will be used for research to develop blight-resistant varieties and new, environmentally responsible control strategies to combat this disease. Approximately, \$148,000 is for the salaries of laboratory and field research personnel and \$36,000 is for materials and supplies. Michigan State University (MSU) has obtained funding from the Michigan Apple Committee and industry sources and will continue to fund the fire blight research at MSU at a level of \$52,500 in FY09.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service—SRG.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Address of Requesting Entity: 102 Agriculture Hall, East Lansing, Michigan 48824.

Description of Request: Provide \$147,000 for Improving the Sustainable Production of Specialty Crops (Improved Fruit Practices). The funding will be used for research to assist growers in producing high quality fruit, dry beans, and sugar beets with environmentally sound, safe, and effective pest control methods and management approaches. Approximately, \$131,440 is for salaries and expenses and the remainder is for lab maintenance and equipment. In addition to the federal funds provided by this grant, this research is supported by personnel, equipment, and facilities funded by the Michigan agricultural Experiment Station and Michigan State University Extension.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.

Account: Natural Resources Conservation—Conservation Operations.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Great Lakes Commission.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2805 S. Industrial Hwy, Suite 100, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6791.

Description of Request: Provide \$404,000 for the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control. This funding will protect and improve Great Lakes water quality by controlling erosion and sedimentation; limiting the input of associated nutrients and toxic contaminants; and minimizing off-site sources of damage to harbors, streams, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational facilities and the Basin's system of public works.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.

Account: Office of Justice Programs—Juvenile Justice.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Our Community's Children.

Address of Requesting Entity: 300 Monroe Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

Description of Request: Provide \$500,000 for extending the length of summer after-school programming and expand after-school programs that serve high school youth.

Bill Number: H.R. 1105.

Account: Corps of Engineers—Investigations.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Army Corps of Engineers, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division.