

H.R. 2997—Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010:

Requesting Member: Congressman GREGG HARPER

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service

Project Name: Genomics for Southern Crop Stress and Disease

Recipient and Address: Mississippi State University, P.O. Box 9800, Mississippi State, MS 39762

Amount: \$797,000

Description: Mississippi State will provide innovative genomics research solutions to address disease and climatic stressors in Mississippi's most valuable commodity crops. Forestry, Poultry, Catfish, and many more Mississippi industries will benefit from this research. Advances in understanding genomic responses to stress and disease are anticipated to have a beneficial impact on yields, costs, and environmental sustainability.

Requesting Member: Congressman GREGG HARPER

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service

Project Name: Biomass-based Energy Research Program

Recipient and Address: Mississippi State University, P.O. Box 9800, Mississippi State, MS 39762

Amount: \$839,000

Description: The Consortium is developing a unique gasification-catalytic process that utilizes all of the plant biomass, including the lignin, to produce liquid fuel. Mississippi State University and Oklahoma State University will cooperate in conducting technical and economic evaluation for the gasification-catalytic conversion process. Currently, MSU is conducting research to develop new catalysts to improve the conversion of syngas into liquid hydrocarbons.

Requesting Member: Congressman GREGG HARPER

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service

Project Name: Wood Utilization Project

Recipient and Address: Mississippi State University, P.O. Box 9680, Mississippi State, MS 39672

Amount: \$4,545,000

Description: Mississippi State University will conduct vital research and education on wood use to support the competitiveness of small and medium wood product manufacturers and the needs of the public through the Wood Utilization Research (WUR) Program. 12 Wood Utilization Research Centers at state universities across the U.S. will participate in this program. Mississippi has the potential to economically grow much larger volumes of wood. Focused research is essential to enhance the development of the current industry and to create new wood-based industries such as that of energy and chemicals.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican

Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2647—National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

I requested one project in H.R. 2647.

In coordination with thirteen other Members of Congress, I sent a letter to the Chairman and Ranking Member requesting support for additional funding for the Army National Guard's H60 Black Hawk Helicopter modernization program. As a result of this letter, \$20.4 million was included in the Defense Authorization Act for this purpose. Army National Guard operational tempos are the highest they have ever been supporting the full spectrum of state missions including search and rescue, utility/lift, disaster relief, firefighting, medical evacuation, all while sustaining deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and the Balkans. This high operational tempo is wearing out the National Guard H60 fleet much faster than planned and as a result of this request, we can ensure the National Guard has the tools and equipment they need to do their job.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 7, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as a part of H.R. 2997, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Act, 2010. The entity to receive funding is the Pennsylvania State University, 117 Old Main, University Park, PA 16802, in the amount of \$133,000. Funding will be used to increase field research/demonstration in order to increase farmer and farm advisor exposure to sustainable cropping system practices.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2647) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of language in the manager's amendment to the Defense Authorization Bill (H.R. 2647) requiring the Government Accountability Office to study the costs to states and localities that choose to cover the difference between a first responder's military salary and their city salary.

After the tragic events of September 11th, many New Yorkers heard the call to service and joined the Army, Marines, Navy, and Air Force in defense of their country. More than

11,000 New Yorkers went to Iraq and Afghanistan and 59 tragically lost their lives in defense of our country. Among these New Yorkers were the brave first responders who had already performed so admirably on that day, the police officers, fire fighters, and paramedics who put their lives at risk to help their fellow New Yorkers. In recognition of this further sacrifice, New York City revised its personnel code to maintain first responders' municipal salaries even during active duty military service.

Five hundred ten New York City municipal employees, including 76 firefighters and 293 police officers, are currently serving overseas, putting the total number of City first responders who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11 at over 2,000, with New York Police Department Officers comprising close to half of these. The combined salaries of these employees is over \$ 148 million dollars, and it is estimated that the city has recouped only \$59 million, costing the City over \$89 million. These financial costs are further compounded by lost man hours, over 800,000 in all. This lost manpower has disproportionately affected the New York City Police Department to the tune of over 472,000 days.

To explain this program better, let's take the hypothetical case of NYPD and Army Reserve Sergeant Smith. Sergeant Smith makes \$55,000 annually as an NYPD officer and his active duty salary is \$35,000. Being called to Iraq for a year-long tour of duty costs Sergeant Smith \$20,000. New York City's program continues Sergeant Smith's \$55,000 annual salary and Sergeant Smith would pay his military salary back to the City. Through New York City's policy, Sergeant Smith is made whole while still patriotically serving his country.

New York City is not alone in honoring its first responders who choose to serve overseas in this way. Boston, Chicago, Indianapolis, Phoenix, and San Jose have similar programs, and many states, including Ohio, Texas, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Washington have laws that provide full pay for all state and municipal employees serving on active duty. At this time, it is not known how many millions of dollars these programs are costing cities and states around the country. Through my amendment the GAO will study the costs incurred by local governments for picking up the costs for their employees serving on active duty. I would like to thank Chairman IKE SKELTON and Ranking Member BUCK MCKEON for accepting this amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PAUL C. BROUN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, I missed the following votes: rollcall Nos. 478 and 479. If I had been able to make these votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 478. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 479.