

The Department of Commerce is monitoring the situation on a daily basis, and out of an abundance of caution, and to prevent a possible violation of federal law, the Department of Commerce is asking for a one-time funding fix from Congress to avoid the furlough of Patent Office employees.

The Trademark Office, as distinct from the Patent Office, within PTO has a surplus of \$60–\$70 million. Without asking for new monies from Congress, the Treasury, or other agency programs funds, this bill before us would provide an immediate and one-time-only borrowing option that is accompanied by a statutory repayment period. In 1999 and 2005, the opposite situation occurred, and the Trademark Office received assistance from Patents totaling \$24 million.

In order for Americans to prevail against this economic downturn, and to remain competitive globally, we need to ensure new technologies, innovation, and products are fully funded. The new concepts and ideas promoted by the work of PTO are drivers for American economic recovery and growth.

At such a time as this, America should be looking for its next Thomas Edison, Bill Gates, or Steve Jobs.

This bill simply lets the USPTO's patent operation borrow from an existing balance held by the trademark operation, and only if reasonably necessary to avoid employee furloughs or a reduction in force. Payback of any borrowed funds is assured by a temporary surcharge on patent fees.

This is a crucial juncture for the PTO. We need to remain at the cutting edge of global technological progress and achievement, or we risk lagging behind other nations.

The bill amounts to an insurance policy for the USPTO to make sure it can cover its payroll for over 9,000 federal employees. I ask my colleagues to support it.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 8, 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 \$771,000. Funding will be used for research that protects the safety of dairy products for Pennsylvania and the nation.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. LYNN JENKINS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 8, 2009

Ms. JENKINS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of

the FY 2010 Agriculture Appropriations bill, H.R. 2997:

Earmark: Polymer Research at Pittsburg State University

Requesting Member: Congresswoman LYNN JENKINS

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, RE/FA Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Pittsburg State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 1701 S Broadway, Pittsburg, KS 66762

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$1,500,000 to make contributions in the use of cellulosic fibers of wheat straw, corn stalks, and grasses (all grown in abundance in Kansas) to convert them to fillers for a new family of plastics that would be cheaper and require less energy to manufacture, and also be more friendly to the environment. This is a good fit at Pittsburg State University due to their certified program in Plastics Engineering Technology. Continued Federal endorsement and funding for these activities will build upon their past successes in the area of polymeric oils for use in polyurethanes. If the United States is to become independent of foreign oil producers, then we must pursue industrial sustainability by continuous innovation, improvement and use of clean technology to reduce pollution levels and consumption of resources. At the Kansas Polymer Research Center, they can apply knowledge of biochemistry to develop processes to produce new bio-based products more efficiently than the chemical processes we have been using.

Earmark: Wheat Genetic Research

Requesting Member: Congresswoman LYNN JENKINS

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, SRG Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Kansas State University

Address of Requesting Entity: Anderson Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$240,000 to map and sequence the wheat genome through the Wheat Genetic and Genomic Resources Center (WGGRC). The WGGRC gene bank currently maintains 12,000 lines and these collections are continuously expanding as the Center acquires, develops, and distributes new genetic and genomic resources to facilitate wheat genetics, genomics, and breeding research. Kansas State University and Kansas wheat producers have already made an investment of almost \$1.0 million towards the purchase of a DNA sequencer and a robot for arraying and printing of DNA filters. This request will collect, conserve, and distribute wheat genetic and genomic resources; develop improved germ plasm; develop genetic stocks; develop genomic resources; and support training and outreach.

Earmark: Grain Sorghum

Requesting Member: Congresswoman LYNN JENKINS

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, SRG Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Kansas State University and Texas Tech University

Address of Requesting Entity: Anderson Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506, and 2500 Broadway, Lubbock, TX 79409

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$515,000 to permit the Great Plains Sorghum Improvement and Utilization Center (GPSIUC) to expand existing research and educational programs, particularly in genetic improvement and sorghum utilization. Sorghum is one of the most drought tolerant crops in the world, offering many potential advantages as a food, feed and bioenergy crop to the rural economies of the Great Plains.

Earmark: Water Conservation

Requesting Member: Congresswoman LYNN JENKINS

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, SRG Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Kansas State University

Address of Requesting Entity: Anderson Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506

Description of Request: To provide an earmark of \$69,000 to help: (1) agricultural producers, both crop and livestock, (2) rural communities in water-short areas; and (3) state and regional agencies to implement economic technologies and policies that will result in water conservation and prolong the life of the Ogallala aquifer in the face of increasing competition for declining aquifers and over-allocated surface waters. This effort is critical to the economic viability of western Kansas. In many parts of western Kansas, freshwater from both surface and groundwater is increasingly in short supply. Drought, aquifer and surface water depletion, and population shifts have stretched community and regional water supplies to their limits. As groundwater supplies decline or become cost prohibitive, better management of water through conservation, recycling, and treatment of poor quality water for secondary uses becomes even more important.

Earmark: Preharvest Food Safety

Requesting Member: Congresswoman LYNN JENKINS

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: National Institute of Food and Agriculture, SRG Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Kansas State University

Address of Requesting Entity: Anderson Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506

Description of Request: To provide an earmark of \$142,000 to expand the University's investigations into (1) the ecology of *Salmonella* in beef cattle, (2) antimicrobial resistance in cattle, and (3) agroinformatics, and (4) animal health diagnostics. These four areas of research have great overlap and synergy and will allow Kansas State University to better identify emerging threats of food-borne and zoonotic diseases associated with food-producing animals. Currently, Kansas State University has an ongoing USDA special project on the ecology of *E. coli* O157:H7 in beef cattle and the environment. This bacterial organism is a major cause of food-borne illnesses in humans.

Earmark: National Agriculture Biosecurity Center

Requesting Member: Congresswoman LYNN JENKINS

Bill Number: H.R. 2997

Account: Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Salaries and Expenses Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Kansas State University

Address of Requesting Entity: Anderson Hall, Manhattan, KS 66506