

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Michigan State University

Address of Requesting Entity: 188 Howard Ave., Holland, Michigan 49424

Description of Request: Provide \$142,500 in funding for the conversion of a former pharmaceutical plant into a center for bio-based start-up companies and research. Approximately 95 percent of the funding will go to equipment acquisition and plant re-conditioning. The project has received funding from and will be supported by Lakeshore Advantage, Holland-Zee-land Community Foundation, State of Michigan and U.S. Department of Labor.

Requesting Member: Congressman PETE HOEKSTRA

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Energy/Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center

Address of Requesting Entity: 200 Viridian Drive, Muskegon, Michigan 49440

Description of Request: Provide \$1,427,250 in funding for an offshore wind demonstration project at the Michigan Alternative and Renewable Energy Center. Approximately two-thirds of the funding will be used for the purchase and installation of the wind turbine. Approximately 30 percent will be used for technical support and interface, environmental impact, education and economic studies for the use of offshore wind turbines in Lake Michigan. The project will be supported by Grand Valley State University, Muskegon Area First and L-3 Communications.

TRIBUTE TO MELVIN CAULEY

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize a true hero that has emerged in the New York Congressional Sixth District. Mr. Melvin Cauley, Jr. has served the Far Rockaway community for five years as a United States Postal Service Mail Carrier. He has walked the community's streets to deliver the letters and packages that are vital to the livelihood of many of my constituents. Now, Mr. Cauley walks the community's streets as a hero, as a citizen who went above and beyond his professional duties to save the life of Mrs. Margaret O'Brien, a 70-year-old resident of Rockaway Beach.

On January 29th, Mrs. O'Brien experienced a traumatic fall that rendered her helpless on her kitchen floor. For the next several days, Mr. Cauley delivered Mrs. O'Brien's mail without incident. Finally on February 5, Mr. Cauley took notice of the accumulated mail not collected by Mrs. O'Brien. This concerned him because Mrs. O'Brien often greeted him to receive his daily delivery. Mr. Cauley took action by notifying the 100th Police Precinct of her absence. At his insistence, the Police visited Mrs. O'Brien's home. Upon entering, they found Mrs. O'Brien lying on the floor unconscious, but alive. She was taken to a local medical facility where she was stabilized and has recovered since then. Mrs. O'Brien, who had lain on her floor for seven days, was saved because of the caring and decisive action of Mr. Cauley.

Beyond delivering letters and packages, the United States Postal Service is an important community partner in protecting the wellbeing of my constituents. For three decades, the Postal Service has had a "Carrier Alert" program in which Postal Carriers are empowered to alert social service agencies and law enforcement when they suspect a threat to the safety of their customers. The "Carrier Alert" program is a natural extension of the care that Postal Carriers have traditionally shown for their customers' wellbeing. Mr. Cauley has demonstrated the great impact that the program can have in protecting the lives of community members.

Mr. Cauley has established himself as a role model amongst his professional colleagues and community members, demonstrating what it is to be a dedicated citizen, on how to care for our neighbors, and the importance of rising to an occasion when circumstances necessitate it. I know that Mrs. O'Brien, her family, and her friends are grateful for his caring actions. On behalf of the Congressional Sixth District, I thank Mr. Melvin Cauley, Jr. for helping to save the life of Mrs. Margaret O'Brien.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "SELECT AGENT PROGRAM AND BIOSAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009"

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, no one can forget the 2001 anthrax letter attacks, which killed five people, paralyzed the Postal Service, and affects the flow of mail to Capitol Hill to this day.

In response, Congress expanded the Select Agent Program, which monitors the possession and use of potentially dangerous biological agents and toxins.

But, the program's authorization expired in 2007, and serious problems persist. Earlier this month, researchers at the Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases received another wake-up call.

They discovered serious gaps in record-keeping after finding germ samples not listed in their database. Since then, the Army has suspended some research at the lab while an inventory of dangerous agents is conducted.

That is why it is so important to reintroduce today the Select Agent Program and Biosafety Improvement Act with my friend MIKE ROGERS in the House and Senators KENNEDY and BURR in the Senate.

The bill requires an assessment of the government's ability to track and control the dangerous substances that can be used to construct dangerous weapons.

It reauthorizes and updates the Select Agent Program, which limits access to and controls the transfer of dangerous biological agents and toxins.

It requires the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the program and recommend ways in which it can be restructured, to enhance biosecurity and international scientific collaboration.

It requires that the program consider newly discovered agents—such as genetically modified organisms, synthetic compounds, and other agents identified in Homeland Security risk assessments—to ensure that its database is current and comprehensive.

It encourages the sharing of information with State emergency planning officials, which is vital to ensuring that first responders have the tools they need to prevent or respond to an attack.

And it ensures minimum biosecurity and biosafety standards for the training of workers in the laboratories that deal with the most dangerous agents.

The threat of biological terrorism on U.S. soil is real and there is still room to improve the way our country tracks and transfers potentially dangerous materials that could be used against us in an attack. This bill will help that effort.

Nearly a decade has passed since weaponized anthrax was anonymously mailed as an attack on Americans. We must act swiftly to improve our capabilities to eliminate these dangers.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE AND MARIA VASQUEZ

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to two individuals whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Mike and Maria Vasquez are two of those individuals. On January 17, 2009, Mike and Maria Vasquez were honored at the Corona Chamber of Commerce's 94th Annual Installation and Awards Gala and received the 2008 Citizen of the Year Award.

Mike and Maria Vasquez are wonderful people that have worked their way up from humble beginnings and turned one restaurant into a successful family empire. In 1973, upon receiving a Corona restaurant named Chile Pepper, they entered the restaurant business, renaming the establishment "Miguel's" in honor of Mike's grandfather. Maria developed dishes based on recipes from her childhood in Mexico. They focused on exceeding customer service expectations and delivering fresh great-tasting food while offering an inviting ambiance and providing a culture of integrity and self-responsibility. It was Mike and Maria's work ethic and undaunted ambition that has ensured the success of Miguel's.

In 1975, Mike and Maria purchased a fast-food restaurant two miles from the original. Miguel's Jr., as they called it, was immediately embraced by the community. Today, the original Miguel's has two locations in Corona including their newest location at Dos Lagos, and Miguel's Jr. has expanded to include seven locations. Following the same business philosophies and family traditions that founded the business, the Vasquez children are committed to growing Miguel's. Their youngest son, Javier, is the President, Michael oversees Miguel's Jr., and Carol and Sylvia serve in the corporate offices.

In a large effort to honor their parents, Javier worked with Corona City Councilman Eugene Montanez to create a special park in Corona to honor his parents' accomplishments and to be a place they could enjoy with their grandchildren. Their vision materialized this past August when the Citrus Park splash zone opened to throngs of happy families. I'm proud to say that the Citrus-themed playground is Corona's first ever water park and was designed based on Corona's proud citrus history. The water park is yet another successful venture of the Vasquez family and a testament to their continued willingness to give back to the community.

Mike and Maria's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of Corona, California. Volunteerism is a major part of the Vasquez's life and from their business, they support many non-profit organizations and schools. For more than 35 years, the Vasquez family has achieved success by focusing on the things that matter: community, family, and tradition. I am proud to call Mike and Maria fellow neighbors, Americans and friends. I know that many community members are grateful for their service and we salute them in their recent award.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. BUCHANAN. 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. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act, 2009:

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Department of Justice—COPS Law Enforcement Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Manatee Community College

Address of Requesting Entity: 5840 26th Street West, Bradenton FL 34207

Description of Request: I secured \$200,000 for an Emergency Notification System using VOIP at Manatee Community College.

VOIP technology offers many advantages; one of the biggest is the convergence between voice and data, which offers possibilities beyond regular telephone or e-mail services. A good example is using VOIP for mass notifications, in which a user can send an alert message simultaneously to a large audience in multiple ways such as text messaging, voice mail and e-mail. Funds will be used to purchase equipment and the one-time cost of installation and set-up.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Economic Development Initiatives

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Sarasota Housing Authority

Address of Requesting Entity: 1300 Blvd. of the Arts, Sarasota, FL 34236

Description of Request: I secured \$237,500 for the Sarasota Housing Authority to build a LEED Certified community center.

Redevelopment is already underway. Plans call for a community center to be built to serve as a property management office as well as a resident services center that will be used to provide training and services to residents to become self sufficient. This center is slated to be a LEED Certified as a green building.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation, Community, and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Manatee and Sarasota Counties

Address of Requesting Entity: 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34205 (Manatee County) 1660 Ringling Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34236 (Sarasota County)

Description of Request: I secured \$475,000 Intelligent Transportation (ITS) project in Manatee and Sarasota Counties.

The counties are upgrading their signal systems in order to deploy a more advanced traffic management system. This project also complements a programmed State of Florida project to deploy ITS for the purpose of incident management on 1–75. It is expected to reduce vehicular delay by 9.5 million hours per year and reduce fuel consumption by 3.8 million gallons per year.

The counties have been coordinating their efforts. Manatee County will incur a greater cost on this project; as a result funding should be split 60–40 between the counties.

Manatee County's project is called Advanced Traffic management System (ATMS), while Sarasota County has designated theirs ITS.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Transportation, Community, and System Preservation

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Hardee County

Address of Requesting Entity: 412 West Orange Street, Room 103, Wauchula, FL 33873

Description of Request: I secured \$332,500 for Bridge costs on US–17.

Funds will be utilized to construct a 500' by 43' bridge in the Hardee County Line/CR 634 segment. The project is an important component of the larger project to four-lane US–17 in Hardee County.

This larger project is important for safety and economic reasons. US–17 four laned entirely will be a valuable evacuation route during hurricanes. Also, it would provide an economic boom as many businesses are looking to the area in their future plans.

Requesting Member: Congressman VERN BUCHANAN

Bill Number: H.R. 1105

Account: Alternative Analysis

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Sarasota County

Address of Requesting Entity: 1660 Ringling Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34236

Description of Request: I secured \$1,009,375 Sarasota County Bus Rapid Transit.

Sarasota County is expanding its transit system with the most fuel-efficient vehicles and the latest ITS technology. The Bus Rapid Transit Corridor Project will: connect areas of highest transit ridership access for key employment sites; improve the operating efficiency of transit services, and support regional long-term land use goals.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on member requests, I am submitting the following information regarding the earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, the FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill:

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF FORTENBERRY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Account: Special Research Grants

Project Name: Drought Mitigation

Amount: \$469,000

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: University of Nebraska-Lincoln located at 202 Agricultural Hall, Lincoln, Nebraska 68583

Description: This funding is for the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) which conducts research and educational programs on drought mitigation and planning for drought. The project has assisted numerous states and municipalities in developing drought plans and implementing drought response action teams. The Center has received national visibility for providing information on the severity of drought throughout the United States. Both print and electronic mass media routinely use Center produced materials in their news stories on the drought.

The NDMC's program is directed at lessening societal vulnerability to drought through a risk-based management approach. The NDMC works with local, state, and tribal governments, federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations. The objectives of the NDMC are: (1) to develop and evaluate existing drought policies and plans in the United States and elsewhere with the goal of improving drought-coping capacity and (2) to develop and evaluate new techniques and methodologies for monitoring drought severity and its impacts, identifying and classifying users in the United States and elsewhere.

Requesting Member: Congressman JEFF FORTENBERRY

Bill Number: H.R. 1105, FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill

Account: Buildings and facilities

Project Name: Systems Biology Research Facility

Amount: \$1,088,000

Name and Address of Requesting Entity: University of Nebraska-Lincoln located at 202 Agricultural Hall, Lincoln, Nebraska 68583

Description: This funding will be used toward construction of a University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL)/Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Research Facility. This facility would provide critically needed space for UNL and ARS research addressing two areas of national concern: renewable energy and water resource conservation and management. Agriculture is expected to provide almost 40 percent of the nation's liquid fuels within 30 years. This will further intensify demands on our soil and water resources. UNL and ARS scientists have been collaborating at UNL since the 1930s. Very strong collaborative programs continue today, including the ARS program at UNL that has been developing improved switchgrass varieties for 30 years and