

## September 30, 2008 - Chairwoman Slaughter Applauds Enactment of Spending Bill, Funding Headed to WNY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chairwoman Slaughter Applauds Enactment of Spending Bill, \$17.5 Million Headed to Western New York

Washington, DC - Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28) applauded the enactment of a spending bill that includes \$17.5 million in federal funding for the 28th Congressional District of New York.

The funding will support initiatives to develop clean energy sources as well as advanced security and protective equipment for our Armed Forces.

"I am proud to announce \$17.5 million in federal funding is on its way to Western New York," said Chairwoman Slaughter. "This funding will support important initiatives to develop clean energy sources and build equipment that our troops in the field need. What's more, our entire community will see a benefit as this money is invested into Western New York, helping to create jobs and stimulate our economy."

The House of Representatives passed the continuing resolution on September 24th and the Senate passed it on September 27th. The bill was signed into law on September 30th.

## BACKGROUND

This bill, the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act (H.R. 2638), is a continuing resolution that will fund the federal government through March 6, 2009. A continuing resolution is used by Congress to fund the government if a formal appropriations bill has not been signed into law by the end of the fiscal year. Usually, continuing resolutions provide funding for federal programs at current levels.

This bill also included the text of three fiscal year 2009 appropriations bills, Defense, Homeland Security, and Military Construction, as well as approximately \$24 billion in disaster relief. The funding secured by Chairwoman Slaughter was part of the Defense and Military Construction appropriations bills.

A detailed description of the local initiatives that will be funded follows:

### \$8.5 Million Secured for FY09 Defense Projects

\$2.9 million for Hauptman-Woodward to build on research to prevent brain and lung damage caused by battlefield trauma.

In recent conflicts, the number of traumatic brain injuries associated with blast effects has increased significantly. Armor reduces the mortality rate by limiting injuries incurred by projectiles; however, it does not protect against the pressure from explosive blasts. The lungs and brain are especially susceptible to blast injury. Hauptman-Woodward will use this funding to build on their current research by establishing a program to understand the complete oxidative stress prevention system of the brain and lungs through biochemical and biophysical structural-based techniques.

\$2.4 million for Rochester Institute of Technology and Delphi Corporation to accelerate the application of fuel cell technology into the Armed Forces.

The Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies at the Rochester Institute of Technology and the Powertrain Systems Division at Delphi Corporation are currently undertaking a joint research and demonstration initiative to accelerate the application of fuel cell technology into U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) stationary and mobile systems. This funding will be used to further this joint initiative to meet the technological challenges facing the DoD in its development of portable power systems.

\$1.6 million for the University of Rochester to develop fuel cells and biosensors.

The University of Rochester's Nanosystems Initiative, a nanotechnology research center, specializes in developing fuel cells and biosensors. Nanosystems for energy, especially fuel cells, and nanosystems for sensors are two of the most fertile scientific, military and commercial areas of development. This funding will be used further the work of the Nanosystems Initiative.

\$800,000 for Vuzix to develop GPS devices to track troops in the field.

The Department of Defense (DoD) relies heavily on GPS for navigation and precision location of forces. There are limited, but very militarily important circumstances where the GPS signal is not available at critical times (when military forces enter caves or other underground spaces, inside many buildings, or under thick foliage). For those situations DoD does not have a good electronic means of precise location or reporting of personnel. Vuzix would use these funds to develop initial prototypes for testing, conduct operational evaluations, and deliver a number of final systems for formal Army testing and evaluation.

\$800,000 for BioBlower Technologies to develop prototypes to destruct airborne pathogens.

BioBlower Technologies will use this funding to design, test and build prototypes for deployment in a real environment to optimize performance and finalize mission requirements for DoD procurement. The immediate application is the BioBlower being part of an integrated system which DoD currently uses for inflatable shelters on the battlefield in Iraq.

#### \$9 Million Secured for FY09 Military Construction Project

\$9 million for the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station to construct a state of the art dining facility and community activity center.

The current dining facility at the Base is suffering from structural deficiencies that will continue to worsen, likely resulting in increased maintenance costs and ultimately posing a safety hazard to occupants. The new facility will house a Base Community Center, Dining Facilities, and other joint use activities for the 914th Air Wing, the 107th Air Reserve Wing and the six military units comprising the Army Reserve/Guard Center. The new facility will improve the quality of life of the service men and women stationed at the Base, encourage future investment in the Base and increase the capacity of the Base to station additional troops.

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