

WASHINGTON – Congressman John W. Olver (1st District) announced today the final funding for the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. The funding was included in the Omnibus Appropriations Conference Report approved by the House of Representatives. “I’m glad that Congress has finally approved an overall spending bill for the current fiscal year. This funding will assist the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission’s efforts to reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in the Pioneer Valley. A summary of these projects is provided below.

Connecticut River cleanup: \$810,000

This funding will assist the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission’s efforts to reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in the Pioneer Valley. Clean up of these combined sewer overflows has been mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). “The EPA mandate to correct CSOs is an environmentally sound endeavor, but unfortunately, the funding has not been available. For more information, contact Tim Brennen, executive director of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, at 413-584-8100.

Co-opPlus of Western Massachusetts, Inc., Holyoke: \$750,000

Co-opPlus of Western Massachusetts, Inc. is a Holyoke-based distributor of environmental products. “By delivering reasonably priced and environmentally friendly energy to its members, Co-opPlus has been a leader in the region. For more information, contact Terry Molner, board member of Co-opPlus, at 413-584-8100.

Safe Seafood Project at UMass: \$425,000

The Safe Seafood Project at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst combines food safety research with seafood safety research. “This investment in seafood safety research could ultimately save thousands of dollars in seafood waste. Last fiscal year, Olver secured \$400,000 for the seafood safety project. Through this research, the University of Massachusetts at Amherst will be able to identify and prevent food safety issues. For more information, contact Fergus M. Clydesdale, head of the food science department, at 413-584-8100.

Museum of American Democracy, Deerfield: \$300,000

The funding will be used to restore and renovate four historic buildings of the Old Deerfield Village Historic Landmark District. “This is an exciting project that will introduce visitors to the culture and history of America. The buildings are part of the Old Deerfield Village Historic Landmark District, established in 1982. For more information, contact Timothy C. Neumann, executive director of the Pocumtuc Valley Historical Society, at 413-584-8100.

Franklin County Community Coalition of Teens, Youth Substance Abuse Prevention: \$300,000

The Community Coalition of Teens project will create the first comprehensive 30-town regional health and substance abuse prevention and treatment program. Local health and substance abuse prevention and treatment professionals, as well as state and federal health care providers, will be trained to provide services. For more information, please contact Linda Dunlavy, executive director of Franklin Regional Health Center.

Community Health Center of Franklin County, Turners Falls: \$225,000

The Community Health Center of Franklin County is a private, not-for-profit corporation. "This community health center works to improve the health status of residents in the area." The Center is the only federally qualified health center available in Franklin County. The Center provides a wide range of health care services. For more information, please contact Dr. Sarah Kemble, executive director, CHC of Franklin County.

Local Emergency Planning in Franklin and Hampshire counties: \$200,000

This funding will allow the Franklin and Hampshire Councils of Government to work with local emergency planning committees. This multi-year project has taken on new significance in light of heightened awareness of emergency planning. "While considerable monies have been allocated for federal and state emergency planning, this funding will allow for more comprehensive planning." For more information, please contact Linda Dunlavy, executive director of Franklin Regional Health Center.

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