WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved a funding bill that includes $525,000 for Greenfield Community College's (GCC) planning, design and installation of a hybrid geo-thermal heat pump to power the heating system needs of the main campus building.

Olver secured the funding in the FY10 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill, which the House passed on July 17, 2009. Olver is on the Appropriations Committee and worked to secure the funding. "This project showcases how green technologies are good investments. We all know how expensive it is to heat buildings during our cold winters. This initiative will not only bring down the college's energy costs, but it will also reduce the college's carbon footprint," Congressman John Olver said. The Geothermal Modification project will construct a new hybrid "standing column" at the base of the Greenfield Community College main campus building. This technology will provide better atmospheric condition control and increased energy conservation. The column will replace natural gas boilers which have previously been responsible for providing hot water throughout the building. Instead it will not only provide water, but also replace ventilation heat load during the winter with preheated hot water coils instead of electric heat providers. It will also provide free cooling during the warm transitional day hours of spring and fall. The many benefits of this new system include reduced energy consumption and gas emissions from boiler flues.

Congressman John Olver added, "Greenfield Community College's ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability is exemplified by this project and is only one of the many initiatives GCC has undertaken in recent years to encourage the adoption of renewable energy technology."

The Senate must still approve its appropriations bill and then both chambers will have to approve a reconciled bill before it goes to the president's desk to be signed into law.

***For additional information, please contact:***

Regina Curtis, GCC, 413.775.1426,
curtisr@gcc.mass.edu

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