



WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced today that the fiscal year 2009 omnibus appropriations bill approved by Congress includes a little over \$9.6 million in federal assistance for various projects in Hampshire and Hampden Counties.

Congressman Olver is a member of the Appropriations Committee and Chairman of the Transportation-HUD Appropriations Subcommittee and worked to include the funding in the omnibus spending legislation. The omnibus represents nine out of eleven annual appropriations bills pulled together into one package. The bill will fund most of the federal government's domestic activities in 2009. The projects and their included dollar amounts are: **\$2.6 Million for Industrial Waste to Clean Fuel: Cellulosic Ethanol Pilot Project**

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Qteros will use these funds to design and build a pilot bio-reactor plant to turn industrial waste into clean transportation fuels at an existing containerboard factory in Connecticut. This plant will produce a greenhouse gas reducing fuel for transportation or for energy use in the plant, while dramatically reducing the amount of solid waste currently being disposed of in a landfill in Springfield, Massachusetts.

"This project utilizes cutting-edge research out of U-Mass Amherst, and it shows that some renewable energy technologies can be implemented in the near term," Congressman John

Olver said. "The science behind this project is really quite exciting. This plant will take waste and turn it into something that is desperately needed, greenhouse gas reducing fuel that can be used for transportation or power."

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

Jef Sharp, Qteros, 203/387-7625.

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**\$1.9 Million for Advanced Traffic Management System on I-91 Corridor**

This funding will contribute toward the building of a fiber optic cable backbone with spare conduit for economic development over 63 miles of I-91 and I-291. The backbone will be equipped with an Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) comprised of variable message signs, closed circuit television cameras, and other IT infrastructure. The ATMS will be linked to the MassHighway office, as well as the MassHighway Traffic Operations Center in Boston, and to MA State Police Barracks in Northampton, Springfield and Shelburne.

"This public investment is crucial for the intelligent transportation system components that will make I-91 a safer and less congested highway," Congressman Olver said. "Additionally, the installation of a fiber optic backbone along the I-91 traffic corridor from the CT to VT border will make broadband access more feasible for the unserved residents of Western Massachusetts."

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

Albert Stegeman, District 2 MHD Director, 413-582-0590

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**\$1.9 Million for UMass Integrative Science Building**

The Integrated Science Building (ISB) will include approximately 92,000 square feet of assignable space, including an auditorium for 300, a smart classroom for 80 students, computer resource room for 100 students and twenty-three laboratory areas.

"The expected benefits of the Integrated Sciences Building are immense," Congressman John Olver said. "It will provide essential science education for undergraduates, enhancing the workforce of the state and region. In addition, the research conducted here will have a substantial impact on regional economic development in the area of biotechnology."

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

James Leheny, Chancellor's Office, 413-626-4913.

**\$1 Million for Connecticut River Combined Sewer Overflow Clean-Up**

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The funding will assist the communities of Holyoke, Springfield, South Hadley, Chicopee and Ludlow in addressing combined sewer overflows (CSO's) to the Connecticut River, a problem of interstate significance and major environmental impact. Currently, the five participating communities are under U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administrative orders to cleanup more than 72 CSO's, which discharge more than a billion gallons of effluent per year into the Connecticut River and its tributaries.

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"The Environmental Protection Agency mandate to correct combined sewer overflows is an environmentally sound endeavor, but unfortunately, there is insufficient federal and state funds to even come close to meeting the needs of these communities," Congressman John Olver said. "I'm pleased we've been able to secure federal funding to move critical CSO projects like these forward."

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

Christopher Curtis, Chief Planner, PVPC, 413-781-6045 x310.

**\$650,000 for Climate System Research at UMass-Amherst** □ The project will support climate research at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. The research will seek to improve the knowledge of the Earth's past and present climate and environment, quantify the forces that cause the climate to change, reduce uncertainty in projections of future climate change, and better understand the sensitivity of ecosystems and human systems to global changes.

Congressman John Olver said, "The University of Massachusetts is at the forefront of climate science research. This additional funding will enable scientists at UMass to continue to seek information about climate change, one of the most pressing issues of our day."

**\$308,700 for Holyoke Community College One Stop Enrollment Center**

This funding will be used to support a bilingual and centralized enrollment center at Holyoke Community College emphasizing early access to counseling, assessment and advising. The One Stop Enrollment Center is designed around the factors identified by Latino and other groups of underrepresented students as critical to their initial positive experiences with higher education. More specifically, the Center combines student transition services in a single, central location that includes a student information center, a student advising center, a student payment center and an electronic document storage system.

“This Center will provide a single, central location for staff to walk Latino and other underrepresented students through the initial steps of application, admissions, financial aid, course registration and payment,” Congressman John Olver said. “I am happy we were able to provide our local community college with the resources necessary to help these students succeed.

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**\$261,250 for Westfield State College Disability Service Center**

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This funding will be used to renovate space on the Westfield State College campus to provide the Disabilities Service Center with a larger space that will better serve students with disabilities that attend the college. The area will be renovated into a state-of-the-art, fully integrated Disabilities Service Center accommodating approximately 500 students and professional staff, incorporating adaptive technology, exam administration, and academic tutoring.

“Fifteen percent of K-12 public school students statewide have a disability. It is critically important that we provide these students with the resources they need to thrive in college,” Congressman John Olver said. “Westfield State College provides exemplary services to these students. This funding will be used to renovate space to provide the existing Center with a state-of-the-art facility.

**\$237,500 for Route 10 & 202 Improvements, Southwick**

The work to be done consists of reconstruction, resurfacing and widening of Routes 10 and 202 in the Town of Southwick, with a total length of 1.5 miles including a center turning lane from Southwick Hill Road to the Route 57 West intersection. The project will also include a closed drainage system, sidewalks on both sides of the roadway, traffic signal upgrades at both intersections with Route 57, wider shoulders to accommodate bicycles, and pedestrian level lighting throughout the project.

“This project will greatly benefit the town of Southwick,” Congressman John Olver said. “Not only will this work improve traffic flow through downtown, but it will also enhance pedestrian and bicycle accommodations through downtown, which will benefit town center businesses.”

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**\$200,000 for Community Action’s Care & Protection Triage Project**

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This funding will allow for the expansion, evaluation and replication of Community Action of the Franklin, Hampshire and North Quabbin Region’s Protection Triage Project. Triage offers an alternative to traditional litigation that is highly collaborative, court-sanctioned, and family-centered.

“This is a very promising model and this funding will enable Community Action to expand the program to other communities,” Congressman John Olver said. “A preliminary evaluation of this project found that children participating in Triage spend, on average, 45 fewer days in foster care than children in litigated cases.”

**\$191,000 for Connecticut River Watershed Study**

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This Study will analyze the operation of each of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer’s 14 owned and operated flood control dams in the Connecticut River Basin to determine if it is possible to

manage these dams for environmental benefits, while maintaining important human uses. The project will identify and evaluate measures to reduce stream bank erosion, restore migratory corridors and spawning habits for anadromous fisheries, restore degraded wetlands and riverine habitat and improve the overall fish and wildlife habitat of the River.

Congressman John Olver said, "We depend upon the dams built along the Connecticut River for electricity generation and flood control. However, whenever possible, we should ensure that that the dams are operated and maintained in such a way as to minimize negative effects to the surrounding habitats."

### **\$150,000 for PVPC to Establish a Lower Connecticut River Joint Commission**

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The Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) will use this funding to establish a new Lower Connecticut River Joint Commission in Massachusetts and Connecticut, and to create a "Partnership Program" of small grants to support improvements in water quality and recreation on the lower Connecticut River. The Partnership Program grants would focus on issues such as reduction of river pollution, monitoring of water quality, improved storm water management, protection of riverfront areas, and creation of public access sites for river recreation.

"The Connecticut River is a national treasure," Congressman John Olver said. "This federal funding will help local groups in their effort to clean up the river so that its many benefits can be enjoyed by future generations."

### **\$143,000 for Holyoke Hospital Equipment**

Holyoke Hospital will use this funding towards the purchase of clinical equipment and technology that is necessary to continue to provide state-of-the-art, quality care to greater Holyoke, as well as to insure patient and staff safety.

"Holyoke Hospital provides outstanding service to the greater Holyoke area, where many of the poorest residents of our state reside," said Congressman John Olver. "This funding will be used

towards the purchase of the equipment necessary for Holyoke Hospital to continue to provide high-quality medical care to its patients.”

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