

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced today that the fiscal year 2008 federal funding for Berkshire County and Cummington is \$5 million. Congressman Olver is a member of the Appropriations Committee and Chairman of the Transportation-Related Subcommittee. Olver declared, "From the arts and environment to transportation, this federal funding will help our exceptional communities thrive. The projects and their included dollar amounts are:

\$269,500 for Barrington Stage Company (BSC) in Pittsfield

This funding will go towards completing the renovation of the Berkshire Music Hall to be used as the Barrington Stage Company's new home. "Barrington Stage Company's presence in Pittsfield is a real asset to the City and fits well into the overall revitalization of the downtown area."

Contact for additional information: Julianne Boyd, BSC, at 413-499-5446, x102

\$588,000 for Berkshire Rides

Berkshire Rides is a non-profit organization that works to improve public transportation access for residents in the northern Berkshire region. "There has always been a tremendous need for public transportation services in the northern Berkshire region, and this funding will help us meet that need."

Contact for additional information: Jana Brule, Director of Berkshire Rides, at 413-664-0300

\$188,000 for Brigham Center in Pittsfield

This funding will support the Gladys Allen Brigham Center's Youth Empowerment Services Plus (YES-Plus) program. "This project will have a real impact on our community," Congressman Olver said. "The Brigham Center is a vital part of our community, and this funding will help us continue to provide the services that our youth need."

Contact for additional information: Kelly Baity, Asst. Executive Director of Brigham Center, 413-499-5446

\$492,000 for Flood Control Chute Repairs in North Adams

This funding will replace a segment of concrete wall that failed in the North Branch of the Hoosic River in North Adams. "This repair is key to protecting the property and safety of businesses and residents who live along the river."

\$246,000 for MCLA's Berkshire Environmental Resource Center (BERC)

This funding will be used to enhance BERC's programming and outreach, including the continuation of its environmental education programs.

"The Berkshire Environmental Resources Center at MCLA is a wonderful resource for MCLA students a

Contact for additional information: Karen Gardner, MCLA, 413-662-5203

\$1.47 million for the Pittsfield Streetscape initiative

This funding will enhance the pedestrian environment in downtown Pittsfield. The planned improvement

The amount represents almost a half million increase from an the amount (\$1 million) included in an ear

"The project will further revitalize downtown Pittsfield. It will boost the arts and culture elements of down

Contact for additional information: Mayor Ruberto, 413-499-9321

\$882,000 for Soldier On (formerly United Veterans of America) in Pittsfield

This funding will create permanent housing with supportive services for homeless veterans in Pittsfield.

"Far too often some of our veterans who need help the most are simply forgotten after they return to civ

Contact for additional information: John Downing, President of Soldier On, 413-584-4040 x2288

\$147,660 for William Cullen Bryant Homestead in Cummington

This funding will support conservation and restoration of the William Cullen Bryant Homestead in Cum

"The William Cullen Bryant Homestead is a National Historic Landmark with more than 7,000 visitors ea

\$750,000 for the Dalton Fire District's Rehabilitation of the Windsor Dam

This funding will support the Dalton Fire District comprehensive rehabilitation of the Windsor Dam which

"The Town of Dalton can now fix the crumbling Windsor Dam. Also, the reservoir then will be able to se

\$502,313 for health care training at Northern Tier community colleges, including BCC

The funding will be used to expand the simulated instructional mannequin system (SIMS) within the con

"These 'virtual hospitals' are excellent training opportunities for health care professionals. They should

Dr. Paul Raverta, President of BCC, said, "The upgrade in technology and instruction will be a giant ste

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