

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4605

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

May 8, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S 131 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S 146 A The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice,
Science, and Related Agencies
SD142
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice
Science, and Related Agencies
SH125
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Vice Chairman Cochran, Chairwoman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby:

As you initiate your efforts to draft the Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2010, I respectfully request your consideration of the following projects, listed in alphabetical order. I make these requests jointly with my colleague, The Honorable Mark R. Warner, who is conveying these requests under separate cover.

These requests are submitted in accordance with the proper constitutional role that Congress performs in the federal appropriations process. I examined these projects for the Commonwealth of Virginia based on two principles: first, they must represent a wise and prudent investment of tax dollars; second, requests for such projects are considered in an open, transparent manner.

In formulating this submission, my staff has gone to extraordinary lengths to screen all requests carefully to validate their merits. This process included face-to-face meetings in nearly all cases to assess and evaluate the projects of requesting entities.

An Achievable Dream; Newport News, Virginia; \$350,000

- Funds will be used to continue and expand An Achievable Dream's (AAD) successful program for at-risk youth. AAD is a unique public-private partnership that was launched in 1992 in an effort to bring together a number of proven strategies and techniques to prepare at-risk youth to succeed in school and in life. While AAD is a non-profit entity, it operates a fully accredited school within the Newport News, Virginia, public school system.

AAD utilizes a combination of initiatives, including: a longer school day and a longer school year that allows more time for learning and less time for the temptations of the streets; a low teacher-student ratio; and an innovative character education program. The value of this program has been borne out by consistently improving standardized test results, and its success has been substantiated by the national recognition it has received from Business Week and the American Association of Character Education Programs, among others.

BSMC Training Institute's Comprehensive Business Development Training Model Pilot; Portsmouth, Virginia; \$100,000

- Funds will be used to support training conferences and workshops for approximately 200 minority business owners. BSMC Training Institute, a non-profit organization, will provide intensive hands on training for small, women and minority-owned businesses by equipping them with the tools to effectively start, sustain and grow their businesses. Additionally, it will introduce them to community service and the importance of growing strong stable communities.

Chesterfield County Police Officer Communications Radios; Chesterfield, Virginia; \$325,000

- Funds will be used to install 300 permanent-mount car radios, one in each of Chesterfield County's Uniform Operations Bureau cars. The car-mounted radios have a longer battery life and provide a longer range of reception while officers are in their vehicles which will improve the safety and productivity of police officers who serve our citizens. Requested funding is a portion of the total cost of the project, which includes the radios, one year maintenance, and installation costs.

City of Alexandria Detention Center Security Upgrades; Alexandria, VA; \$150,000

- Funds will be used for the procurement and installation of an electronic motion detection system, security cameras, and fencing and razor ribbon for the perimeter of the Alexandria Detention Center to facilitate the security of the facility and grounds. Since September 11, 2001, the detention center began housing high-profile federal inmates, which has led to the need for special security measures. The Alexandria Detention Center maintains a contract with the US Marshals' Service to house a minimum of 150 Federal prisoners daily. Housing these Federal prisoners in the Alexandria Detention Center reduces the transportation and security costs for the Federal government due to its proximity to the US Courthouse for the Eastern District of Virginia. Security updates are needed for the detention center in order to ensure the security of federal prisoners being housed in Alexandria and to ensure public safety.

City of Hampton Emergency Communications Phone System; Hampton, Virginia; \$300,000

- Funding for this project will be used to acquire an updated 911 Communications System for the City of Hampton's Police Department. The current 911 phone system in the City of Hampton's Emergency Communications Center is

technologically out-of-date and due to age and its 24 hour duty cycle, it is suffering more frequent failures and support issues. During times of crisis, at the local, state and federal levels, the Emergency Communications Phone System will also serve as a key component of local physical infrastructure to maximize the ability to receive, process and deliver a coordinated response to a potential disaster scenario.

City of Petersburg Bureau of Police Technology Infusion Program; Petersburg, Virginia; \$175,000

- Funds will be used for the purchase of mobile data terminals for 40 police vehicles. The data terminals will greatly enhance police officer safety, improve efficiency and increase visibility in the neighborhoods, thus ultimately reducing the City's high crime rates. The data terminals will provide real time access to law enforcement records, allowing for maximum patrol time while on duty. Officers will be able to submit reports while still in their vehicles, rather than relying on records management personnel to enter electronic records days after the incident or arrest.

City of Portsmouth Gunshot Location System; Portsmouth, VA; \$100,000

- Funds will be used to purchase gunshot location system, allowing the Portsmouth Police Department to fight crime more effectively and help reduce the City's crime rate. This turnkey system includes a sensor hardware server, software licenses and all professional services including site survey, installation and training.

Portsmouth is a distressed city and although the population is relatively small in comparison to surrounding Hampton Roads cities, it has a disproportionately high crime rate that continues to rise. Thus far in 2009, gang related crimes have more than tripled in Portsmouth, with the Police Department having identified more than 40 active gangs and over 630 gang members. The Portsmouth Police Department responds to an inordinate number of gunfire calls. The Department responded to 1,568 calls for gunfire during the 2008 calendar year, with 219 of those calls resulting in persons being injured.

City of Radford Public Safety Building; Radford, Virginia; \$250,000

- Funds will be used for the necessary equipment and infrastructure to complete the renovations of an empty factory building into a new public safety facility in Radford, Virginia. This new facility will provide adequate headquarters for the Radford Department of Police to include emergency communications, criminal investigations, patrol, evidence storage, holding and interviewing space, administrative services, and an emergency operations center. Radford's new public safety building will replace a 118-year-old facility that faces serious structural, utility, and space issues with no cost-effective way to rectify them.

The City has requested funding for fixtures, and equipment associated with the new Police Department command center, evidence rooms, training rooms,

armory, and interview rooms, in addition to telecommunications equipment and infrastructure for use throughout the facility.

City of Richmond Returning Offender Program; Richmond, Virginia; \$350,000

- The City of Richmond is seeking funding for its Returning Offender Program to provide targeted intervention and rehabilitation services to recently-released ex-offenders with substance abuse issues, mental disorders and/or co-occurring disorders, who are identified as being at high risk of recidivism. The Program is based on best practices and will assign case managers to assist each participant with transitioning into a stable, drug and crime-free, productive life within their communities. Funds will be used to create additional professional positions in the City civil service system to administer the program.

City of Suffolk Police Department Technology Enhancement Initiative; Suffolk, Virginia; \$75,000

- Funds will be used for the acquisition and installation of in-car cameras and mobile data terminals for the Suffolk Police Department.

With a secure, wireless modem, officers are able to generate and transmit reports directly from the incident scene and instantly share information with other law enforcement agencies. This access to real-time law enforcement data, without relying on a dispatch center, enhances officer safety, improves department efficiency, and increases the amount of time officers spend in the community.

Officers rely on in-car video cameras for recording behavior of reckless motorists, filming sobriety tests, documenting suspects' actions during traffic stops, and helping to resolve allegations of officer misconduct. The cameras help deter reckless behavior as citizens become aware of the presence of cameras, serve as useful training material, and promote officer integrity.

Additional data terminals and in-car video cameras are needed to help the City accomplish its goal to equip all of their patrol vehicles. The equipment is important in that it enhances the efficiency of the department and improves the safety of both citizens and police officers.

Gemeinschaft Home; Harrisonburg, Virginia; \$350,000

- Funds will be used to continue Gemeinschaft Home's community-oriented correctional programs that facilitate the transition of ex-offenders from correctional institutions to the community at large. Gemeinschaft has a collaborative relationship with the Virginia Department of Corrections and offers a less expensive alternative to incarceration while still maintaining close supervision.

Programs offered include substance abuse counseling, individual life skills counseling, career counseling, job training, financial management, educational programs, community service and family counseling. The program has been

successful in reducing recidivism through the effective delivery of transitional services.

George Mason University's Center for Infrastructure Protection; Arlington, Virginia; \$550,000

- Funds will support the Center for Infrastructure Protection's Cybersecurity & Cyber Conflict Analysis project. The purpose of this project is to provide new advice and policy guidelines for government and industry actions regarding cyber incidents that do not comfortably fit within the existing legal and operational structures originally established to counteract physical-world problems of crime and warfare. The goal of this project is to encourage the growth of collaborative relationships necessary to deal with the full spectrum of cyber conflict problems, including intra-governmental cooperation within a nation-state, cooperative relationships among nations and within existing international organizations and alliances, and mutual cooperation among private sector companies and governmental entities.

The Center for Infrastructure Protection (CIP) integrates the disciplines of law, policy, and technology to conduct comprehensive infrastructure protection analysis and research relevant to improving U.S. and international security. CIP is nationally and internationally recognized as a leading facilitator and provider of infrastructure protection programs that help secure and defend the United States and its allies.

Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force; Leesburg, Virginia; \$500,000

- The Northern Virginia Gang Task Force has had a measurable effect on gang activity in the region, and we are seeking additional federal assistance to help continue the Task Force's efforts in Northern Virginia.

The Task Force exists to curtail and eradicate gang involvement and gang activity in Northern Virginia. A multi-jurisdictional effort between the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Virginia State Police and Virginia local sheriffs and police departments, the Task Force was established to address the threat of gang activity in the region. The Task Force initially focused on enforcement activities; however, through the years the scope has been expanded to include education, prevention, and intervention for at-risk youth and provide alternatives to gang involvement.

Northwest Virginia Regional Gang Task Force; Berryville, Virginia; \$500,000

- In response to increasing gang activity in the Shenandoah Valley, this task force was established to coordinate and share information with their counterparts at the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force. According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the entire northern Virginia region has been challenged by gang activity. Funding will help continue the efforts to combat gang activity in this area of the state.

OAR of Fairfax County - The Beacon Re-Entry Program; Fairfax, Virginia; \$350,000

- The Beacon is a program to assist formerly incarcerated persons re-enter the workforce and the community. It is an 18-24 month program for formerly incarcerated adult men, offering comprehensive residential, employment/career training, and educational opportunities and resources. A long-term goal is to provide entrepreneurial training through development of a participant-owned and operated small business. Funds will be used for OAR for staffing, operations and business development purposes. This program can be replicated in other communities and the program model has been demonstrated to reduce recidivism.

Prince George County Police Technology Upgrades; Prince George, Virginia; \$275,000

- Funds will be used for the Prince George Police Department to purchase Mobile Data Terminals and Next Generation 9-1-1 Equipment.

Mobile Data Terminals will greatly enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the County's Police Department. The upgrades would allow officers the ability to query data in real time and allow Incident Based Reports to be entered by officers while in the field and submitted via wireless data access for more immediate access to information. Funds would be used towards the purchase of 22 MDTs, which includes the equipment, access cards and software.

The Next Generation 911 system will expand and improve the capabilities of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) through new inter-networking technologies. Funds would be used towards the purchase of 911 calling equipment, wireless equipment, and VoIP.

Stafford County Public Safety Radio Technology Upgrades; Stafford, Virginia; \$325,000

- Funds will be used to assist Stafford County in completing the upgrade of their public safety communication technology. Stafford County's analog radio system is more than twenty years old and the system is inadequate in facilitating two-way communications during law enforcement and first responder field operations. This greatly affects the ability of emergency responders to properly communicate in public safety emergencies. Stafford County seeks to upgrade to a digital system that will help with interoperability and has already committed \$27 million to radio upgrades.

Virginia Community College System's Great Expectations Program; Richmond, Virginia; \$350,000

- Funds will be used to expand an education program serving youth in Virginia's foster care system. This project will help at-risk foster youth ages 13-24 graduate from high school, gain access to a community college education, and gain employment in high wage, high demand jobs.

In the U.S., Virginia has the highest percentage of teens aging out of the foster care system without a permanent home. Without the education and skills needed

for an independent life, combined with lacking a stable support system, these young people are twice as likely to become homeless or incarcerated as spend time inside a college classroom. The long-term benefits for the Commonwealth of Virginia of this effort are significant in several dimensions—educationally, socially, economically, and culturally—making a difference to individuals, families, communities, businesses, and the Commonwealth at large.

The Virginia Community Colleges System (VCCS) is a public institution of higher education, comprised of 23 colleges located on 40 campuses throughout the state of Virginia. On average, for every dollar spent on Virginia's Community Colleges, the return on investment is \$3.80.

Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services - Virginia's Integrated Justice Program; Richmond, Virginia; \$500,000

- Virginia's Integrated Justice Program serves to enhance public safety and homeland security efforts by linking state and local computer systems that have had difficulty sharing information. It is a phased program to improve criminal justice processes through better processing and sharing of information and also supports national information sharing initiatives. The funding sought for the next phase will enable the Virginia DCJS to build on this foundation by improving other criminal justice processes.

Recent events have made clear the critical importance of timely and effective information sharing between law enforcement and other public safety agencies. The project has the support and participation of all of the key elements of the criminal justice system. The direct beneficiaries include those working in law enforcement, prosecution and defense, the judiciary, and corrections; private citizens benefit indirectly through improved public safety.

Virginia Department of Forensic Science - Efficiency Improvement in DNA; Richmond, Virginia; \$250,000

- Funds will be used to purchase supplies and equipment needed to convert the Virginia Department of Forensic Science's DNA program from a gel based DNA system using the MiraiBio FMBIO® Fluorescent Image Analysis System (FMBIO) to a capillary electrophoresis based DNA system using the Applied Biosystems 3130xl Genetic Analyzer (3130xl).

State and local crime laboratories are an integral part of the criminal justice system. The demand for testing has increased for crime laboratory analyses, but funding has not kept pace with increasing demand. Laboratory backlogs cause significant delays in evidence being analyzed, resulting in delays in the courts as well as the investigation of crimes.

Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development - Wallops Research Park Taxiway; Richmond, Virginia; \$2,000,000

- Funds will be used to provide for the construction of a taxiway linking runway 10-28 at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility to adjacent property in the Wallops Research Park located in Accomack County, VA. Wallops Research Park (WRP) is a partnership between Accomack County, NASA Wallops Flight Facility and the Marine Science Consortium. Linking the NASA runway to the sites available for private investment enhances the value of the federal agency's existing facility and strengthens the mutual interests of the County, NASA and the state in the proposed development of this area.

Accomack County has already secured state funding for an access road and utilities to serve development adjacent to the taxiway/apron. Completion of the taxiway will facilitate an additional private investment that will bring 250 new jobs to Accomack County, further expanding the growth of the aerospace/flight sector in a rural area whose economy was formerly largely dependent on farming and fishing.

Virginia Institute of Marine Science - Virginia Trawl Survey; Gloucester, Virginia; \$100,000

- The Virginia Trawl Survey program seeks funds to ensure the collection and reporting of critical data on the recruitment, current and future abundance, and general ecological health of the finfish populations in the Chesapeake Bay. This study is important to establish population assessments of juvenile marine and estuarine fish and invertebrates in the Chesapeake Bay. The real time data provided by the survey is crucial to state fisheries management agencies, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission, and the National Marine Fisheries Service. This survey benefits states from New York to North Carolina. Proper long-term management of these finfish resources ensures stability of both the ecology of the Chesapeake Bay and the economic livelihood of fishery participants.

Virginia Marine Resources Commission - Oyster Aquaculture Infrastructure; Newport News, VA; \$1,000,000

- Funds will be used to implement a program to develop the hatchery capacity, remote production facilities, and deployment technology to produce commercial quantities of oysters in Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay. This project will forge a public-private partnership to develop a profitable and self-supporting oyster industry.

Virginia's oyster population and the associated commercial fishing industry remain at historically low levels. This project will assist in increasing the commercial production of oysters to sustainable and dependable levels in the Chesapeake Bay, thereby, providing both the ecological and economic benefits of this critically important species. Oysters and the habitat they create are Key NOAA Trust Resources in the Chesapeake Bay both for the habitat and ecological value and for the economic value of the fishery.

Virginia Mentoring Partnership - Mentoring Programs for At-Risk Children and Youth; Richmond, Virginia; \$350,000

- Funds will be used to expand and enhance the impact and availability of mentoring for at-risk children and youth around the state. Data confirms that mentoring can be a solution to youth violence, gang formation, drug abuse, and eventual entry into the criminal justice system. In addition, mentored youth have better attitudes towards school, better attendance, and a better chance of going on to higher education.

Funding would work to address these issues among Virginia's at-risk youth through a multi-prong approach: to provide intensive training and technical assistance support to relatively new and existing programs, which combined serve approximately 700 children statewide; to recruit new mentors and improve in-take services in existing programs; to strengthen existing programs and increase retention of volunteers through regional training and technical assistance programs; and to enhance training curriculum and volunteer mentor materials to assist mentees academically.

Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation; Richmond, Virginia; \$250,000

- Funds would provide full scholarships to public safety agency personnel participating in the three programs conducted through the Virginia Police Chiefs Foundation (VPCF) Center for Leadership Education. VPCF has developed this series of leadership education programs, conducted at one of three Virginia universities, to prepare future leaders within public safety agencies, as well as several management programs designed to keep agency chief executives focused on current issues confronting our communities.

These programs help provide the law-enforcement training that keeps our communities safe; mitigate increasing costs and funding shortfalls that impact the training budgets of public-safety agencies; and create more opportunities for agencies to participate in VPCF training and education programs. These funds will assist in leveling the playing field so that agencies throughout Virginia, urban and rural, big and small, will be afforded an opportunity to participate in world class leadership education and management training opportunities, regardless of their ability to pay. VPCF education and training programs are open to all public-safety agencies in Virginia and their personnel, as well as out-of-state applicants.

Virginia State Police's Southwest Virginia Drug Task Force; Wytheville, Virginia; \$500,000

- In Southwest Virginia, the Virginia State Police (VSP) Bureau of Criminal Investigation has focused on stopping the spread of methamphetamine through seizures of the drug and dismantling of methamphetamine laboratories. Funds will equip five Southwest Virginia task forces - covering seventeen counties, seven towns, and three cities - with additional technology to investigate, locate, and identify methamphetamine laboratories and support the prosecution of those involved with drug-related crimes.

Youth Building Green, City of Alexandria; Alexandria, Virginia; \$50,000

- Funds will be used to administer a program targeted to at-risk students in Alexandria, Virginia. The City of Alexandria Court Service Unit, the Alexandria City Public Schools and the Alexandria Seaport Foundation, a private non-profit organization, have formed a partnership to serve 5th through 12th graders at risk for gang activity. Math has been identified as the key academic obstacle to minorities graduating high school and reaching post secondary education. This partnership has developed an innovative program that combines classroom hands-on math workshops, summer programming and after school jobs to provide math and related technology skills for at-risk students and also prepare them for building trades jobs utilizing “green” technologies. Using Alexandria Seaport Foundation’s nationally recognized hands-on teaching materials and techniques, these activities will remediate fundamental math skills, motivate learning by applying math to real world settings, introduce higher level math concepts through hands-on experiences and provide the basic job skills necessary to enter the workforce. Funds will be used to administer the in-school and after-school programs, the summer camps and the after-school jobs program and will be matched with non-profit funding. This project has potential to serve as a national model to address this critical drop-out problem. Other programs of both the City of Alexandria’s Court Service Unit and the Alexandria Seaport Foundation already serve as national models.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA):

Aeronautics Research and Development Funding

- Since the inception of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics in 1917 (NASA’s predecessor Agency) NACA/NASA has invested heavily in world-class, national test facilities (such as wind tunnels, structural test facilities, simulators, and flight test facilities) and has developed a technical staff of scientists, engineers, and technicians who are second to none in the world. NASA is the only entity, public or private, with the in-house expertise, experimental test facilities, computational tools, and long term research focus required to provide solutions to future civil and military aviation problems. Aviation generates more than \$1 trillion of economic activity in the United States every year, contributes over 15 percent to our Gross Domestic Product, and supports over 15 million high quality American jobs.

NASA Langley Research Center has a national economic impact of \$1.9 billion and represents 10,400 jobs in Virginia. We remain extremely concerned with the consistent decline in aeronautics research and development funding and have joined for the past several years with a number of other colleagues in advocating a restoration of the NASA commitment to aeronautics.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the Committee build upon the FY2009 enacted funding level for aeronautics research in the FY2010 CJS Appropriations Bill to ensure that the U.S. remains competitive with other countries' aeronautics efforts.

National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program

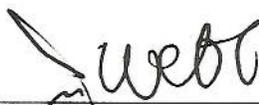
- The National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program was established by Congress in 1989 and has since provided seed funding to State-based Consortia to work to improve Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, workforce development and to build university research capabilities in aerospace related fields.

We request the inclusion of the following report language: "The Committee includes \$46,000,000 for the National Space Grant College and Fellowship program. The additional funds shall be targeted towards increasing the participation of underserved students throughout the United States."

I certify to the best of my knowledge that neither I, nor my immediate family, has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressional directed spending items requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

I appreciate your consideration of these important initiatives and look forward to working closely with you on behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Should you or your staff have any questions regarding these requests please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Jim Webb
United States Senator