

OBJECTIONABLE PROVISIONS IN S.1034

THE FY 1998 VA/HUD APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Bill Language

\$10 million of HUD funds earmarked for housing demolition and replacement at Heritage House in Kansas City, Missouri.

Earmark of HUD funds for an economic development test program, including at least one Native American area in Alaska.

\$40 million earmarked for the Economic Development Initiative within HUD, "to finance a variety of efforts, including those identified in the Senate committee report", namely:

--\$2.5 million for enlarging Scarborough Library at Shepherd College in West Virginia

--\$2 million for brownfield activities in Baltimore, Maryland

--\$2 million for economic redevelopment of Ogden, Utah

--\$2 million to renovate Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York

--\$400,000 for a regional landfill in Charles Mix County, South Dakota

--\$2.5 million for a construction project related to Bushnell Theater in Hartford, Connecticut

--\$2.5 million for exhibit and program development at Discovery Place in Charlotte, North Carolina

--\$600,000 for the West Maui Community Resource Center in Hawaii

--\$1.5 million for renovation of Paramount Theater in Rutland, Vermont

--\$1 million for Lake Champlain Science Center in Burlington, Vermont

--\$2 million for renovation of Tapley Street Operations Center in Springfield, Massachusetts

--\$2 million to develop abandoned industrial sites in Perth Amboy, New Jersey

--\$2.5 million for New Mexico Hispanic Cultural Center

--\$400,000 for Riverbend Research and Training Park in Post Falls, Idaho

--\$2.5 million for University of Missouri for a plant genetics research unit and the Delta Research Telecommunications Resource Center

--\$2 million for Cleveland Avenue YMCA in Montgomery, Alabama, to build a cultural arts center

--\$1 million for Covenant House in Anchorage, Alaska.

\$7.1 million of HUD funds previously earmarked for an industrial park at 18th and Indiana in Kansas City, is instead earmarked for rehabilitation and infrastructure development associated with the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum and the Jazz Museum at 18th & Vine.

\$150 million of EPA funds earmarked for construction of high priority water and wastewater facilities in the area of the U.S.-Mexico Border, including \$50 million for grants to Texas for improving wastewater treatment for colonias.

\$15 million of EPA funds for grants to Alaska to address drinking water and wastewater infrastructure needs of rural and Alaska Native Villages.

\$82 million of EPA funds earmarked for grants to construct wastewater and water treatment facilities and groundwater protection infrastructure as specified in the report, namely:

--\$7 million for Burlington, Iowa

--\$7.15 million for Lake Tahoe, California

--\$5 million for Richmond and Lynchburg, Virginia

--\$7 million for Ashley Valley, Utah

--\$1 million for Ogden, Utah

--\$4 million for Jackson County, Mississippi

--\$50,000 for Kinloch, Missouri

--\$1.2 million for Las Cruces, New Mexico

--\$5 million for Virgin Valley Water District, Nevada

--\$2 million for Epping, New Hampshire

--\$4.3 million for Queen Annes County, Maryland and Pocomoke River, Maryland

--\$6 million for Bingham County, Rupert, and Rosell and Homedale, Idaho

--\$5 million for Missoula, Montana

--\$1.7 million for Essex County, Massachusetts

--\$3 million for Milton, Vermont

--\$5 million for Fayette and Fallowfield Township, Pennsylvania

--\$6.3 million for Pulaski County and Kingdom City, Missouri

--\$8 million for Abbeville, McCormick, and Edgefield Counties, South Carolina

--\$3.3 million for Jackson, Washington, and Cleburen Counties, Alabama

Report Language

Veterans Administration:

Earmarks and directive language:

--\$12.4 million add-on for a patient privacy/environmental renovation project in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

--\$900,000 add-on for the National Veterans Cemetery in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

--Directs the VA to proceed expeditiously with the expansion of the Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri.

--Directs the VA to move expeditiously to complete the third floor of the Jackson, Mississippi regional VA office. Sufficient funds are included in this appropriation for the completion of the third floor should the VA be ready to proceed in fiscal year 1998.

--Directs VA to give priority consideration to construct a new dietary complex and boilerplant at Southeastern Veterans Center in Spring City, Pennsylvania.

Words of encouragement and support:

--Urges or encourages the Veterans Administration to consider establishing or expanding Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Vermont, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and southern and western Maryland.

--Urges additional funding to startup and test the coal-fired incinerator at the Lebanon, Pennsylvania VAMC.

--Urges VA to consider procuring a mobile clinic to be operated from the Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania VAMC.

--Language supporting a joint VA-DOD effort through the Joslin Diabetes Center in Boston, Massachusetts to apply methods to improve detection capability for those prone to diabetes.

--Encourages the VA to continue the VA-DOD Distance Learning Pilot Program to transition clinical nurse specialists to the role of nurse practitioners, which is established at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences at Bethesda, Maryland.

--Urges the VA to continue the demonstration project involving the Clarksburg, West Virginia VAMC and the Ruby Memorial Hospital at West Virginia University, with funding up to \$2 million.

--Urges VA to provide adequate support for seven-site National Center for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

--Language expressing continuing support for the establishment of a partnership with a private, not-for-profit research and treatment center that could deliver new cancer therapy to veterans; directs the VA to expedite efforts to establish such a partnership, and mentions that Garden State Cancer Center in New Jersey is internationally recognized in this field.

--Urges the VA to provide support for a cooperative program with the Diabetes Institute of Norfolk, Virginia to develop protocols for the diagnosis and treatment of diabetic neuropathy.

--Language noting the need for expanding the columbarium at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii, and urges the VA to allocate necessary funds, estimated at \$1.5 million for this project.

--Urges favorable and expeditious review of the construction applications for State veteran homes in Cameron and Warrensburg, Missouri, which would require \$13.2 million and \$13.6 million in federal funds.

--Requests the VA to thoroughly and expeditiously consider applications for cemetery sites for Springfield and Higginsville, Missouri, which would require almost \$4 million in federal funds.

Housing and Urban Development:

Set-asides from Community Development Block Grant funds for a variety of projects and activities in various locations:

--\$2 million for revitalization of Los Angeles, California

--\$1 million for science and mathematics programs at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland

--\$2 million for expansions of the Business Development Center at Hofstra University in New York

--\$1 million for St. Louis University for community development program in LaCledé Town, Missouri

--\$1 million for University of Colorado Health Sciences Center

Environmental Protection Agency:

Earmarks for a myriad of add-ons:

--\$8 million to establish up to five university-based research centers to address the most pressing unanswered questions involved in the air particulates field.

--\$2 million for Water Environment Research Foundation cooperative research program

--\$3 million for American Water Works Association Research Foundation

--\$1.75 million for National Jewish Medical and Research Center for research on the relationship between indoor and outdoor pollution

--\$2 million for Lovelace Respiratory Institute to establish a National Environmental Respiratory Center coordinate research on airborne particulates

--\$1 million for Center for Air Toxic Metals at Energy and Environmental Research Center

--\$1 million for Texas Regional Institute for Environmental Studies

--\$1 million for Institute for Environmental and Industrial Science

--\$1.5 million for Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health to establish a National Center for Environmental Toxicology and Epidemiology to study the effect of urban toxics on human health

--\$1 million to establish the Center for Estuarine and Coastal Ocean Environmental Research at the University of South Alabama

--\$1.5 million for Integrated Petroleum Environmental Consortium

--\$3 million to continue a demonstration project involving leaking fuel tanks in rural Alaskan villages,

--\$250,000 for the Nature Conservancy of Alaska for protection of the Kenai River watershed

--\$3 million for the Southwest Center for Environmental Research and Policy

--\$1 million for the Sacramento River Toxic Pollutant Control Program

--\$500,000 for continuing of the small water system cooperative initiative at Montana State University

--\$500,000 for a small public water system technology center at Western Kentucky University

--\$2 million for the New York City watershed protection program

--\$750,000 for the Chesapeake Bay program to initiate a small watershed grants program to implement the cooperative tributary basic strategies

--\$1 million to continue the sediment decontamination technology project in the New York-New Jersey harbor

--\$500,000 for the Treasure Valley, Idaho, hydrologic project

--\$2.5 million for King County, Washington, for a molten carbonate fuel cell demonstration project at the Renton wastewater treatment plant

--\$800,000 for the National Center for Vehicle Emissions Control and Safety to establish an On-Board Diagnostic Research Center

--\$500,000 to continue the Small Business Pollution Prevention Center at University of Northern Iowa

--\$500,000 to continue the Compliance Assistance Center for Painting and Coating Technology

--\$200,000 to complete cleanup of Five Island Lake

--\$500,000 for the Ala Wai Canal watershed improvement project

--\$400,000 to continue the Maui algal bloom project

--\$100,000 for the Design for the Environment for Farmers Program to address the need to develop and adopt sustainable agricultural practices for the fragile tropical ecosystems of the American Pacific

--\$1.5 million for the Lake Champlain management plan

--\$600,000 to complete the solar aquatic wastewater treatment demonstration in Burlington, Vermont [although the report language goes on to state that "The Committee does not intend to recommend funding for additional solar aquatic wastewater treatment demonstrations in view of EPA's assessment that this technology does not appear to offer any economic advantages over conventional technologies."

--\$1 million for the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to coordinate a model water/wastewater operations training program

--\$150,000 to establish a regional training center at the Kentucky Onsite Wastewater Center

--\$550,000 for the Idaho water initiative

--\$1 million for Lake Weequahic cleanup

--\$1.75 million for the Three Rivers watershed protection demonstration project in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

--\$1.25 million to design an innovative granular activated carbon water treatment project in Oahu

--\$500,000 for a small public water system technology center at the University of Missouri-Columbia

--\$2 million for a Missouri Watershed initiative at the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute

--\$500,000 for a study of dioxin levels in the Ohio River basin

--\$300,000 for the California Urban Environmental Research and Education Center

--\$1 million to continue a wetlands-based potable water reuse program for the city of West Palm Beach

--\$700,000 for the Long Island Sound office

--\$2 million for the University of Missouri Agroforestry Center to support a floodplain initiative

--\$300,000 for the Northeast States for coordinated air use management

Directive language:

--Language directing EPA to consider testing ground water remediation technology developed by the International Research Center for Groundwater Research

--Language directing EPA to fund the water quality testing program along the New Jersey and New York shorelines at no less than current levels

--Language directing EPA to conduct a feasibility study for a potential pilot project to demonstrate innovative alternatives to the existing haul-water drinking water and honey bucket human waste disposal systems in the Northwest Arctic Borough

--Language directing EPA to assess whether the Edison Laboratory should be replaced and, if appropriate, to include funding in the FY 1999 budget submission

Words of encouragement and support:

--Language urging EPA to give strong consideration to funding a proposal by the Hawaii Institute of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to further the commercialization of agriculturally based environmental remediation technologies

--Urges EPA to give priority to soil aquifer treatment research program for indirect potable reuse of highly treated domestic wastewater being conducted in California and Arizona

--Encourages EPA to undertake a demonstration project at North Dakota State University comparing satellite data to field-gathered data on farming practices in the Oakes irrigation test area in southeast North Dakota

--Urges EPA to support the Houston Air Excellence and Leadership program which seeks to identify ways in which air pollution control policy can be targeted toward the most dangerous pollutants

--Directs EPA to strongly consider funding a proposal by Fort Scott, Kansas for additional tertiary wastewater treatment via a constructed wetland which will improve the Marmaton River

--Urges EPA to give careful consideration to the establishment of a Small Public Water Systems Technology Assistance Center at West Virginia State University and the University of New Hampshire

--Urges EPA to look at the sister lake partnership between Lake Champlain Basin and Lake Orchid in the former Soviet Union as a model for its own program

--Language stating that funding within the National Estuary Program should be provided to Sarasota Bay, Buzzards Bay, and Massachusetts Bay

--Urges EPA to provide support to exploring new ways to control zebra mussels in Lake Champlain

--Urges EPA to provide assistance to the city of Gainesville, Florida, for an innovative stormwater management project to protect the Floridian aquifer from stormwater runoff

--Urges EPA to support the Sokaogon Chippewa community's efforts to assess the environmental impacts of a proposed sulfide mine project

--Language stating the Committee would entertain a future budget request by EPA to construct a solid oxide fuel cell/gas turbine power system demonstration plant at EPA's Fort Meade research facility

--Language stating that EPA should provide adequate funds to continue the Dover Township, New Jersey, cancer cluster studies

--Urges EPA to provide \$3 million from the border infrastructure fund to El Paso for use in its Rio Grande environmental monitoring program and \$2 million for the federal share for construction of the Jonathan Rogers plant

Federal Emergency Management Agency:

Words of encouragement and support:

--Recommends FEMA consider using the State of Maryland's western Maryland flood task force as a model for work in other states in identifying disaster mitigation opportunities, and states that FEMA should work with the State of Maryland to fund mitigation measures identified by the task force

--Urges FEMA to continue efforts, in cooperation with the National Institute of Building Sciences and the University of South Alabama, to establish a universal methodology capable of predicting damages and loss of life caused by natural hazards

--Urges FEMA to support the Pittsford, Vermont, Fire Academy effort to expand training to rail and toxic material accidents, as recommended by the Committee in prior years

--Encourages FEMA to support the Coastal Region Development Center's efforts to develop a new model plan for southeast Georgia and other coastal states for hurricane evacuation mitigation preparedness

National Aeronautics and Space Administration:

Earmarks and directive language:

--Earmarks an additional \$10 million for Origins ATD for additional astronomy test beds that contain significant investment by U.S. institutions; directs that, in selecting the new sites, one site permit search from the southern hemisphere for candidate stars which show clear evidence of planetary systems, and a second site use a large ground-based interferometer that demonstrates new adaptive optics and nulling interferometry technologies essential for the direct detection of Earth-like planets of other stars

--Directs NASA to use \$15 million to fund up to five consortia to develop specific regional applications with the use of EOS data; each consortium must include academic institutions and end users as partners and demonstrate a value-added application of EOS data to a regional problem of significant consequence

--\$20 million increase earmarked for the bantam flight demonstrator

--\$1.5 million earmarked for MSE-Technology Applications, Western Environmental Technology Office

--\$2.5 million for a science learning center in Kenai, Alaska

--\$500,000 for the Discovery Science Center, Santa Ana, California

--\$2 million earmarked for continuing development of a national prototype space education curriculum by the Center for Space Education at the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii

--\$5 million for facilities enhancements at the Stennis Space Center

Words of encouragement and support:

--Commends the efforts to the Stennis Space Center in commercial remote sensing and encourages that these activities continue

--Urges NASA to use a portion of the \$10 million earmarked for the next generation internet initiative to develop new internet technologies to improve interconnection to areas such as Alaska and Hawaii; also recommends Montana as an appropriate participant area in the next generation internet initiative

National Science Foundation:

Earmarks and directive language:

--\$40 million to support a competitive, merit-based initiative, which may include one or more university-based research center, to enable the development of a U.S.-led public/private research initiative supporting research into plant genomes

--\$25 million earmarked for an incoherent scatter radar, which the Committee directs be used only to construct the radar collocated with the Department of Defense ionospheric research site (i.e., the HAARP project in Alaska)