

## June 27, 2007 Murtha: House Approves \$675,000 for Stoystown Water Project, \$250,000 for Ft. Necessity and \$150,000 for Greene County Machine Shop

For Immediate Release

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Washington D.C. - Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, announced today that the House of Representatives has passed a \$27.6 billion Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill that includes funding for key regional park and preservation initiatives.

Included in the fiscal year 2008 spending bill is \$675,000 for the Stoystown Water Project, Somerset County. The project creates a 1.3 mile waterline to provide much needed water in North Central Somerset County. The current lack of public infrastructure forces schools, residents, and public safety personnel to use bottled water and water trucks for their supply throughout the year.

"Through the diligent work of local officials, this funding will build upon the much anticipated Quemahoning Water Project and bring an adequate water supply to the residents of Stoystown," Murtha said.

The appropriations bill also includes \$250,000 for Ft. Necessity, Fayette County, to rehabilitate the parks antiquated water system. This funding will allow Ft. Necessity to tie into the new rural municipal water system recently installed nearby and has a life-cycle cost benefit to the National Park Service. The timing of this project is ideal for the continuing celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the "War for Empire."

The appropriations bill also includes \$150,000 under the Save America's Treasurers Account for the W.A. Young & Son's Foundry and Machine Shop, Greene County. This rare industrial facility contains machining and foundry equipment dating back to the mid-to late-1800s. When the machine shop closed more than four decades ago, the tools, drills, nails, presses, lathes wooden mold and patterns were left behind creating a priceless time capsule from the turn of the century. The structure is in desperate need of repair and restoration, and once complete will become a key historic property in Rices Landing's National Register District.

Also included in the Appropriations Bill is \$1.2 million for the Southwestern Pennsylvania Heritage Preservation Commission, which develops and promotes tourism in Cambria, Fayette, Indiana, Somerset, Westmoreland, Bedford, Blair, Fulton and Huntingdon counties. The Commission oversees the Southwestern Pennsylvania Industrial Heritage Route, a 500-mile route traveling through the counties mentioned above, and features hundreds of sites relating to our nation's industrial story.

"Historically, our region is the backbone of both our nation's struggle for independence and its industrial revolution," said Murtha. "The funding included in this appropriations bill is important to local tourism initiatives, important to preserving our region's historical significance and important to creating key economic development opportunities."

The Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill also makes key national investments into:

\* Clean Drinking Water and Waste Water Projects: \$1.25 billion, \$593 million above the President's request, for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, Sewer and Water Grants (STAG), and Rural Assistance to help local communities with drinking water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

\* Fish and Wildlife Service: \$1.42 billion, \$130 million above the President's request, for efforts to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

\* U.S. Forest Service: \$2.6 billion, \$345 million above the President's request, including increases for managing both public and private forests and grasslands.

\* Brownfields: \$100 million, 12 percent above the President's request, for evaluation and cleanup of "brownfields," former industrial and commercial sites, turning them from problem properties to productive community use. It also provides \$50 million in grants to states to administer Brownfield programs.