

June 26, 2008 - Murtha: House Appropriations Committee Passes Funding for Westmoreland Economic Growth Connection and JARI

- WASHINGTON, D.C.

-- Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, announced that yesterday the House Appropriations Committee passed a \$22.4 billion fiscal year 2009 Financial Services Appropriations Bill that includes funding for the Economic Growth Connection (EGC) of Westmoreland County and the Johnstown Area Regional Industries (JARI).

The appropriations bill provides \$150,000 for the EGC Procurement Assistance Program. The EGC assists businesses in Westmoreland and Fayette Counties with identifying government bids, contract awards and foreign business opportunities. They also compile a database of regional manufacturing capabilities to match business needs with local services.

Also included in the appropriations bill is \$150,000 for the JARI Incubator and Workforce Development program. The program provides marketing analysis, advertising, accounting, loan packaging, bid preparation and executive training sessions to small businesses and educational institutions in the Cambria and Somerset County region. The incubator project provides the next generation of businesses and industries in Southwestern Pennsylvania with the managerial guidance and facility space they need to establish a prospering small business.

“Both JARI and the EGC work tirelessly to attract new businesses to our region,” said Murtha. “This funding will assist these efforts, as well as provide existing businesses with a broad range of support services.”

The FY09 Financial Services Appropriations Bill also makes key national investments into:

Small Business Administration: \$880 million, \$311 million above the President’s request, to help small businesses during tough economic times.

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