

technical assistance and operations and development services to micro-enterprises. Micro-enterprise owners, gaining the skills and knowledge necessary to use information technology to grow their businesses, will learn to access new customers and markets, achieve administrative efficiencies, learn how to improve their businesses and increase productivity.

The PIs and this project have a well established track record of working with micro-enterprises that are most in need and enabling them to show measurable improvements. This includes working closely with multiple community partners. 37 microenterprises that were selected from a larger pool are presently being actively supported. This project is different from the other micro-enterprise assistance programs in that it addresses the needs of the majority of micro-entrepreneurs by providing them with the ability to use information technology to grow their businesses. Additionally, instruments are being developed and used to assess the effects of our training, technology and trust building interventions on the economic, human and social development of micro-entrepreneurs in the underserved communities of Omaha. After a well established IT, knowledge and community infrastructure is in place approval will be pursued for Center status within the University. Continued educational offerings of developed curricula will sustain development of a trained workforce and microenterprise communities. Efforts for program research, innovation, expansion and assessment purposes will be supplemented by external funding.

In January 2005, Governor Heineman reported to the Legislature on the Nebraska Micro-enterprise Development Act that 87 percent of Nebraska's businesses are micro-enterprises and they accounted for 22 percent of Nebraska's job growth. Many of Nebraska's most successful businesses (e.g., Cabela's, ConAgra) began as micro-enterprises. Since many rural and inner city communities lack the resources and infrastructure for industrial development, micro-enterprises are the only choice for economic development. Despite its effectiveness and track record, Nebraska's micro-enterprise development system is grossly underfunded, according to a recent report to the Unicameral by the Nebraska Rural Development Commission. As with businesses of any size, the performance of micro-enterprises can be enhanced through the effective and strategic use of information technology. This project will provide Nebraska micro-enterprises with an accelerated platform and support for increasing their technological competitiveness, innovation and spur job growth.

EMERGENCY MEDIC TRANSITION
(EMT) ACT

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, today, together with my colleagues Representatives MELISSA BEAN and STEPHANIE HERSETH SANDLIN, I rise to introduce H.R. 3199, that takes an important step toward ensuring the safety and security of our communities by enhancing the surge capacities of local medical

facilities, while helping ease veterans' transition into civilian life.

Every year, highly trained, experienced medics leave the ranks of the nation's armed forces. Yet those who wish to find employment in the medical field must start from scratch, fulfilling the same entry-level criteria as citizens without any hands-on experience.

At the same time, hospitals and emergency medical services face a shortage of qualified personnel. Many operate at or near capacity, barely meeting the daily demand for their services. In the event of a terrorist attack, natural disaster, or other mass-casualty incident the resulting surge of patients would overwhelm medical facilities. Having the largest possible pool of experienced emergency medical personnel on hand is crucial in responding to such an incident.

Veterans with medical experience are the ideal people to fill this gap. Who better to come to the rescue in face of a disaster than the same men and women we've trusted to defend this country overseas? In the world of emergency response there is no substitute for experience. First responders routinely face life-or-death decisions, often amid a backdrop of chaos and confusion. This would be magnified during a terrorist attack or natural disaster. Military medics work at the scenes of IED attacks, suicide bombings, and firefights; many have experience equivalent to that of their most seasoned civilian counterparts in this respect.

By treating veteran medics as entry-level trainees, we forego an opportunity to benefit from their existing training and highly relevant experience. Rather than subjecting them to the same coursework as everyone else, states should allow military medics to undertake a regimen that accounts for their existing training and prepares them to provide care in a non-combat environment. Not only will this enhance the surge capacity of medical facilities, it will also spare the cost of unnecessary, redundant training.

The legislation we introduce today will create such a fast-track, removing the barriers that currently impede veterans' assimilation into the corps of emergency responders.

Not only is this an important step to bolstering the nation's preparedness, it also helps veterans transition from military to civilian life. In 2008, the average unemployment rate of recently discharged military personnel was more than 30 percent higher than the rate for non-veterans. Creating an avenue to employment for veterans with medical experience is the least we can do to honor the brave men and women who have risked their lives in defense of their country.

We owe it to veterans to help them find work and we owe our communities the protection they deserve. This is a win-win solution that allows us to do both.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding an earmark I received as part of

H.R. 3183, the Energy and Water Appropriations for FY 2010:

I requested \$250,000 in this legislation for the San Diego Four-Reservoir Intertie Project through the Bureau of Reclamation's Water and Related Resources Investigations account. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of San Diego, located at 202 C Street, San Diego, California 92101.

The City of San Diego is seeking to perform a feasibility study in partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation, authorized by the Omnibus Public Land Management Act (P.L. 111-11), to examine connecting four existing reservoirs in San Diego County (San Vicente, El Capitan, Murray and Loveland) in an effort to study and improve water supply reliability and water yield throughout the region, as well provide an added element of public safety to protect local water supplies. Loveland currently only receives local runoff, El Capitan receives local runoff and imported water, but due to pipeline capacity limitations, the full capacity of the reservoir cannot be utilized. Local rainfall in the watersheds to these reservoirs is inadequate to fill them and only occurs once every five to ten years.

The unused capacity of the four San Diego reservoirs totals an estimated 100,000 acre-feet a year. Maximizing storage capacity would provide a significant water storage volume that can be put to beneficial use if imported water were piped to the reservoirs and efficiently operated. Additionally, connectivity between the reservoirs would allow the isolation of contaminated water in the event of a terrorist attack or natural disaster while, at the same time, transport water from another reservoir to the affected area. Besides the City of San Diego, this project has the full support of the San Diego County Water Authority and the Sweetwater Authority, two local public water agencies.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, consistent with the House Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, to the best of my knowledge the request I have detailed below is (1) not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; and (2) not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark. As required by earmark standards adopted by the House Republican Conference, I submit the following information on a project I requested and was included in H.R. 3170—the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2010.

Account: Salaries and Expenses
Project Name: Technology Education Center
Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Central Oregon Community College, 2600 NW College Way, Bend, Oregon 97701
Project Location: Bend, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 3170 appropriates \$100,000 for the Central Oregon Community College Technology Education Center project. According to the requesting entity, this