

Washington, DC -- \$200,000 in congressionally-directed funding secured by U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) for a flood mitigation project in Tompkins County was included in the Fiscal Year 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Act (H.R. 2764) passed by the House of Representatives late last evening.

“Families in Ludlowville know all too well how devastating severe flooding can be and how important it is to invest in early flood prevention,” **Arcuri said**. “To prevent destructive flooding in the future, this funding will provide for a thorough and comprehensive study exploring the cause of flooding and begin the process of implementing a successful flood protection plan. I am pleased to see taxpayer dollars coming back to Tompkins County to protect homeowners and local communities from the devastating effects of flooding.”

Funds will be used to implement three distinct and consecutive flood mitigation phases over the course of approximately three years: 1) A comprehensive, engineered hydrological analysis and evaluation of the factors contributing to damaging flood events in the hamlet of Ludlowville; 2) Identification and evaluation of alternative retention strategies that could mitigate damage from future flood events; and 3) Implementation of the most cost-effective and feasible storm water control facility alternative in cooperation with local, state and federal partners.

There has been repeated flooding in the Ludlowville area over the last eight years, with documented damage of over \$315,000 to public and private property as well as damage to the natural environment. Excessive flooding and erosion continues to impair water quality in the Southern end of Cayuga Lake. This funding will also address sediment runoff into the lake.

“We very much appreciate Congressman Arcuri’s efforts to obtain this funding,” **said Ed Marx, Commissioner of Planning and Public Works for Tompkins County**

. “This critical and much-appreciated additional funding, combined with state and local funds, will allow us to address this problem in an effective way and reduce problems to residents and infrastructure. The local government, the State and federal government are all partners and the federal piece makes this project possible and makes the local share much easier.”

In addition to funding secured by Arcuri for local projects, the legislation contains critical investments in national priorities such as cutting edge medical research, expanded access to higher education, transportation infrastructure and homeland security.

The Fiscal Year 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Act Invests in:

- **Access to Education:** \$14.2 billion, \$554 million above 2007 funding levels, increasing the average Pell Grant to \$4,731 when combined with mandatory funds provided in the College Cost Reduction Act. K-12 funding in the bill includes increases to Title 1, Special Education, Teacher Quality Grants, After School Programs, and Head Start.
- **Medical Research:** \$29.2 billion, \$329 million above 2007 funding levels, for the National Institutes of Health to study diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, cancer and heart disease.
- **Rural Healthcare:** \$287 million, \$5 million above 2007 funding levels, for grants to help more than 1,200 small, rural hospitals create health care networks for more than 775,000 rural residents in underserved communities, provide access to emergency defibrillation devices, and support rural health research centers and state rural health offices.
- **Transportation Infrastructure:** \$40.2 billion in mandatory budget authority, \$1.1 billion above 2007 funding levels, to improve and maintain our nation's aging highway infrastructure and critical investment in aging bridges. This will secure the nation's transportation infrastructure and create over 100,000 new jobs nationwide.
- **Homeland Security and First Responders:** \$4.1 billion for homeland security and fire responder grants. Since taking office in January, Arcuri has announced over \$3 million in grants to local fire departments through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program.
- **State and Local Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention Grants:** \$2.7 billion, including \$587 million for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program.
- **Housing and Urban Development Programs:** \$37.6 billion, \$1.4 billion above 2007 funding levels, which encompasses \$3.6 billion for Community Development Block Grants to fund community and economic development projects in 1,180 localities. The bill also includes \$100 million for HOPE VI to revitalize local neighborhoods.
- **Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency:** \$1.7 billion for important investments in Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Biofuels, and Energy Efficiency, with a careful blend of new scientific investments and conservation efforts.
- **Veterans Health Care:** \$3.7 billion in additional funding for veterans healthcare.

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