

Washington, DC -- Over \$5 million in Congressionally-directed funding secured by U.S. Representative Michael A. Arcuri (D-Utica) for projects in Geneva is included in legislation passed by the House of Representatives late last evening.

The funds secured by Arcuri are included in the Fiscal Year 2008 Omnibus Appropriations Act (H.R. 2764). Local projects slated to receive funding include:

\$1.883 million – Center for Grape Genetics Research in Geneva, NY. Funds will go toward construction of a \$29.6 million USDA Agricultural Research Service facility that will focus on research programs to help make the U.S. wine industry more competitive.

\$1.559 million– Viticulture Consortium Special Research Grant, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, NY. The Viticulture Consortium is a multi-state special research grant that operates as a national competitive grants program to fund applied, mission specific research relevant to grape growing.

\$629,000– Grape Genetics Research, NYS Agriculture Experiment Station in Geneva, NY. Funds would be used to hire researchers to work on selective breeding of grapes using genetic characteristics to control pests and diseases.

Wine and grapes make up a \$7 billion industry in New York State. The Congressional Wine Caucus, of which Arcuri is a member, recently oversaw a national economic impact study which concluded that the wine, grapes and grape products contribute over \$162 billion to the American economy each year.

“Specialty crops, like apples and grapes, are a major part of the economy in the Finger Lakes area – farmers, scientists, and the local business community will all benefit from this federal funding,” **Arcuri said.** “I am proud to announce this critical research funding to keep specialty crops healthy and increase yields. I am pleased to bring taxpayer dollars back home to help Upstate farmers and support national agricultural research conducted at our outstanding local laboratories and Universities.”

\$371,000– Apple Fire Blight Special Research Grant, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, NY. Apples are the biggest tree fruit crop in New York State, worth more than \$2 billion annually. Funds would be used to better understand and manage the apple fire blight disease by investigating the molecular basis of disease resistance in apples and developing disease resistant varieties.

\$574,000 – National Rootstock Breeding Program, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, NY. Funds would be used to hire laboratory technicians to develop and evaluate improved rootstocks, which are used by apple growers to improve productivity and produce higher quality apples.

\$500,000 - Water District 12 in the Town of Geneva, NY. The project includes the installation of a water main along Pre-Emption Road and sections of Hastings Road and Haley Road, as well as along the entire length of Braewood Lane; the construction of a 500,000 gallon elevated storage tank; and a water booster pump station which will be located along Pre-Emption Road. The project will bring water directly to approximately 60 residents in Water District 12 and everyone who uses town water will see an increase in water pressure.

“I am pleased to see taxpayer dollars coming back to the Town of Geneva to upgrade critical water infrastructure,” **Arcuri said.** “Federal funding for local improvement projects like this is essential to helping our communities promote economic development and protect public health.”

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