

Congressman Steve King today announced that a federal appropriation for the Highway 34 bridge in Mills County has been included in H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009. President Obama signed the legislation into law Wednesday.

King secured \$427,500 for the planning and construction of the U.S. 34 bridge.

“The U.S. 34 bridge is critical to bringing economic growth and development to Mills County and the surrounding area,” said King. “I am pleased with the progress that is being made towards completion of this project. This funding demonstrates my continued commitment to seeing this bridge become a reality.”

In requesting funding for this project, Congressman King complied with all earmark transparency standards, including a Congressional record submission that includes the name of the request and a description of how the funds will be spent.

When Congressman King initially requested the funding in early 2008, he did so with the understanding that his requests, and those of other members, would be addressed by the House through the normal appropriations process. Instead, all member requests were lumped into a single, 1,222 page, \$410 billion spending bill that was written behind closed doors, with no legislative review or formal member input. The bill was made available for public scrutiny less than 48 hours before Members voted on it.

As a result, Congressman King opposed H.R. 1105 during House consideration of the bill on February 25. The \$410 billion “omnibus” spending bill significantly expands the federal deficit and funds the federal government for a mere seven months. That’s over \$58.5 billion in taxpayer dollars per month.