

Congressman Steve King today announced that a \$500,000 federal appropriation for the Sioux City Police Department's National Meth Training Center and a \$1,092,500 federal appropriation for I-29 utility relocation in Sioux City have been included in H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009. President Obama signed the legislation into law Wednesday.

Funding for the Police Department's National Methamphetamine Training Center will be used to continue the operations of the Center. The Training Center maintains a vision of providing the most current and relevant training in the area of narcotics law enforcement. The Center's mission is to support the overall effort to control and reduce methamphetamine production, trafficking and distribution on the local, regional and national level.

"The National Meth Training Center is providing leadership and developing much-needed training now and for the future to ensure our state and nation remain on the offensive in the effort to eradicate meth use," King said. "The National Meth Training Center is in a unique position right now to help law enforcement professionals across the nation in our fight against drugs."

Funding for I-29 utility relocation will be used for design, construction and contract administration costs of utilities moves brought about by the reconstruction of Interstate 29 through Sioux City.

"Better roads mean better access to the products Iowa has to offer," King said. "This funding is a small part of the larger I-29 expansion project that will further solidify Sioux City's position as the epicenter of business and transit in the tri-state area."

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.