

Congressman Steve King today announced a \$27,000,000 federal appropriation for Lewis and Clark Regional Water System has been included in H.R. 1105, the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009. President Obama signed the legislation into law Wednesday.

Congressman King and a bi-partisan delegation of House and Senate members from the tri-state area worked to secure the funding. When completed, the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System will be a wholesale supplier of treated water to 20 cities and rural water systems in northwest Iowa, southeast South Dakota and southwest Minnesota (an area the size of Connecticut). Over 300,000 people in the tri-state region will benefit from the project.

The Lewis and Clark Regional Water System will have an immense impact on the quality of life and economic development of the tri-state region. The project is a unique cooperative agreement among the federal government, three states and 20 local governments. Iowa members include Hull, Rock Rapids, Sheldon, Sibley and Sioux Center.

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.