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House of Representatives

FY2008 INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON
OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 26, 2007

MR. SIMPSON: Madame Speaker, in accordance with House earmark reforms, I would like to place in the record a listing of the congressionally-directed projects in my home state of Idaho that are contained in the report of the FY08 Interior, Environment and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill.

The project provides \$500,000 within the Environmental Protection Agency, State and Tribal Assistance Grants to the City of Twin Falls for the Auger Falls Wastewater Treatment Project.

Funding such as this is critical to assisting rural Idaho communities in upgrading their water and wastewater treatment facilities. In the case of Twin Falls, this funding is required to comply with unfunded mandates passed down by this Congress and federal agencies. The State of Idaho, under court order, has implemented Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limits for phosphorus compounds on all significant discharges to the river. The City of Twin Falls Wastewater Treatment Plan, with a daily discharge of approximately 7.1 million gallons of treated wastewater per day, is one of the largest dischargers of phosphorus on the Middle Snake River and periodically exceeds

the EPA TMDL limit. The City is planning to meet its TMDL limits through the use of natural treatments on city owned property, in the form of constructed wetlands and habitat creation.

This funding will allow the City of Twin Falls to develop the beneficial wildlife habitats that will function as wastewater treatment systems to further reduce nutrients in City wastewater. This will ensure that the wastewater does not exceed the Environmental Protection Agency's Total Maximum Daily Load mandates for the City's wastewater discharged into the Snake River.

I am proud to have obtained this funding for Idaho and look forward to working with Idaho's communities in the future to meet their water resource challenges.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a list of Congressionally-directed projects in my district and an explanation of my support for them.

1.) \$500,000 City of Twin Falls for the Auger Falls Wastewater Treatment