From: Wendy Sheridan
To: Tim Andrassy;
Subject: FW: Kaptur Release
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Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2009 3:54 PM
To: _WUPW News
Subject: Kaptur Release

FOR RELEASE: March 11, 2009 Contact: Steve Fought (419) 259-7500

Kaptur Scores $1.425 Million for Transit Station At New Downtown Arena in Toledo

Plus A Boost for Northern Ohio's 'Literal Growth Industry,' and Help for Lake Erie

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur today announced she has succeeded in securing assistance for several major Northern Ohio initiatives in the Fiscal Year 2009 appropriations cycle, including a TARTA station at the new arena in downtown Toledo. President Obama signed the measure into law this afternoon.

"The federal awards for our region focus on jobs and economic growth," said Congresswoman Kaptur. "Our region has been extremely hard hit by the recession, and this federal assistance represents a significant helping hand. Such help has never been more important."

Kaptur, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, also pointed to continuing assistance for the emerging alternative energy industry in Northern Ohio. "Our region is rapidly becoming the solar capital," she said, nothing that she has secured more than $50 million for the sector over the past few budget cycles.

She applauded a $2.192 million appropriation for the Agricultural Research Service for a plant sciences and hydroponic research complex eventually to be located at the University of Toledo. These funds will complement earlier support for the project that Congresswoman Kaptur has obtained over the past decade to advance the high-value-added greenhouse industry.

She said a $502,000 appropriation will to benefit greenhouse nurseries—"a billion-dollar growth industry—a literal growth industry—that is centered right here in Lucas County." Her initiatives have resulted in creation of the Maumee Valley Growers cooperative, which has taken a lead role in developing the industry.

Kaptur said her funding priorities revolved around five major themes tied to economic development: alternative energy; public safety; infrastructure investment; environment and urban floriculture; and, Great Lakes protection.

Alternative Energy: "We are determined to make our region the national leader in the development of solar power and alternative energy," said Kaptur.

The omnibus bill includes:

- $1.19 million for further development of flexible thin-film solar cells at Xunlight Corp., Toledo through the Department of Energy;

- $950,000 for solar-powered lighting enhancements on the Veterans Glass City Skyway in Toledo through the Department of Transportation; and,

- $122,821 for development of the communications infrastructure at the University of Toledo's Renewable Energy Business Incubator.

Kaptur also included $4 million for further development of the solar power plant at the Ohio National Guard's 180th Fighter Wing at Toledo Express Airport in the 2009 Defense Appropriations bill. The solar plant includes 99 percent local content.

Public Safety: The omnibus bill includes $1.5 million "to advance community safety for our citizens," Kaptur said.

- $950,000 for a juvenile court re-entry transition and transformation program in the Lucas County court system; and,

- $500,000 for law enforcement technology for the Lucas County's Sheriff's Office through the Community Oriented Policing System (COPS) program.

Infrastructure Investment: The omnibus bill includes approximately $6.4 million in infrastructure projects for Lucas County. "These two major projects represent substantial

investment in our local infrastructure to help revitalize the downtown area and insure a viable operating port. These are over and above the stimulus bill," Kaptur said.

- $1.425 million for a new TARTA bus facility at the downtown arena in Toledo; and,

- $4.96 million for increased dredging in Toledo Harbor through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

***Environment and Urban Floriculture**:* Congresswoman Kaptur said the omnibus bill reflects her commitment to cultivating "a city in a garden" concept of providing economic opportunity through green projects. "Due to our location and climate, our region is well positioned to create jobs and develop a growth industry in horticulture and floriculture," Kaptur said. The omnibus bill includes:

- $2 million for tree re-planting to help the region recover from the devastation left by the invasive Emerald Ash Borer;

- $237,000 for Toledo MetroParks to buy additional land acquisition at Keil Farm, which is the last working farm in the city limits of Toledo.

- $95,000 for an high school garden learning initiative through the Toledo GROWS program; and,

***Great Lakes Protection**:* Noting that the region's economy is closely tied to the Great Lakes, Kaptur said four projects will promote a healthy ecosystem:

- $1.275 for the city of Toledo to meet its ongoing needs for improved wastewater treatment;

- $1.195 million for the Great Lakes Remedial Action Plan (RAP) through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;

- $750,000 for an extensive federal review study of fish kills and harmful algal blooms in the Maumee Bay; and,

- $667,000 for a hydrological study and flood mitigation in the Maumee Watershed.

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Attachment: local projects in the omnibus spending bill.