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SCSDB to receive funds to fix dorm

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The South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind will receive nearly \$400,000 for dormitory renovations as part of a Congressional appropriations bill passed Friday.

The Senate's annual Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development appropriations bill for fiscal year 2006 includes several million dollars for 38 South Carolina projects. Seven of those projects -- totaling nearly \$2.4 million -- affect the Upstate, according to data compiled by the offices of South Carolina Sens. Jim DeMint and Lindsey Graham.

The bill, which passed unanimously in the Senate and overwhelmingly in the House, includes \$380,000 for renovations of Hall Dorm at SCSDB. The dormitory has experienced water damage and ventilation problems.

"It's a worthy cause in great need of these funds, and it shows the state's delegation considers this project important," said DeMint spokesman Adam Temple.

The dormitory renovations have been supplemented by in-kind donations by businesses providing fixtures, linen and bedding, a DeMint staff member said.

The bill also allots \$500,000 in economic development funding to the city of Greenville for development of the Clemson University International Center for Automotive Research. That money can be used for infrastructure including roads or buildings, said Price Atkinson, spokesman for Rep. Bob Inglis.

"It goes straight to them and they use it as they see fit," he said.

In a statement released Friday, DeMint called the projects the bill would fund "important to South Carolina in order to maintain our quality of life and encourage economic development."

Graham, in a press release, stated the funds would improve transportation infrastructure and provide needed funding "for housing and community organizations that help maintain a healthy workforce."

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