



News from Congressman Mike Simpson



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Contact Nikki Watts – (208) 334-1953

December 9, 2009

Simpson Secures Pocatello, Rexburg Area Funds

Idaho Congressman wins funding for ISU, Madison County Memorial and Bear Lake Memorial Hospitals

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, has secured funding to assist in the renovation and expansion of Madison County Memorial Hospital and to enhance two research projects based at Idaho State University. Simpson secured the funding as part of a final year-end bill funding several federal departments and agencies.

The bill includes \$350,000 for expansion and improvement in the use of electronic medical records at Madison County Memorial Hospital in Rexburg. According to the hospital, the equipment for the electronic medical record implementation and expansion will ultimately provide a paperless environment where clinical information can be readily shared via continuity of care electronic transactions with all entities within the Madison Memorial Hospital Network. This is the third and final year of funding for the project.

“Madison County Memorial Hospital is one of the finest and most vital healthcare facilities in all of eastern Idaho,” said Congressman Mike Simpson. “This funding will assist them in their ongoing efforts to streamline the delivery of care and provide first-rate services to the people of eastern Idaho. I am impressed with the improvements made at the hospital over the last few years and grateful for the hard work of everyone associated with the facility.”

The bill also includes funding for two research projects based at Idaho State University. The University will receive \$400,000 for the purchase of biochemistry and microbiology laboratory equipment and \$500,000 for its Watershed Modeling Utilizing LiDAR program at the Boise Center Aerospace Laboratory. The project will leverage existing infrastructure and expertise at ISU to develop state-of-the-art watershed modeling tools for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other federal agencies. These tools will enable better management of watersheds through improved topographic analyses for prediction of runoff, floods, and water storage capacity.

“Idaho State University is developing unique and important capabilities that will be enhanced by the funding allocated in this bill,” said Simpson. “The laboratory equipment project will provide over 400 students with access to an improved educational experience, while the watershed modeling project will provide ISU with unique capabilities in areas such as flood plain modeling and remote sensing. Both of these projects better prepare Idaho students for their future careers and build on existing strengths at ISU.”

In addition, the bill contains \$300,000 for the Bear Lake Memorial Hospital’s Renovation Project. The funding will assist the hospital with improvement to its emergency room and diagnostic imaging services.

Other Idaho-based projects receiving funding in the bill include:

- \$1 million for the Idaho Meth Project;
- \$20 million for a new Logistics Readiness Center at Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB);
- \$690,000 for planning and design of a new Civil Engineering Maintenance Complex at MHAFB;
- \$500,000 for Idaho State Police participation in the Criminal Information Sharing Alliance Network;
- \$500,000 for the National Consortium of Offender Management Systems (NCOMS) Sharing Software for the Idaho Department of Corrections.

The legislation is expected to be passed by the House and Senate over the next two weeks and then be sent to the President for his signature.

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