

Washington, D.C. - Today, Congressman John Barrow (GA-12) voted in favor of bipartisan legislation that invests in two of our nation's top priorities - protecting Americans at home and spurring scientific research and innovation. The Commerce, Justice and Science Appropriations bill invests in programs that help local and state governments keep their citizens safe. It also funds research and development programs that facilitate scientific innovation and discovery. In order to save money and fund higher-priority programs, the bill eliminates 11 programs and cuts funding for another 13 programs below the 2009 level.

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"We're investing money where it's going to make a difference -- keeping our streets and neighborhoods safe," said Barrow. "As a result of this bill, and the Recovery Act which Congress passed earlier this year, we'll be able to boost crime prevention and hire 7,000 new police officers in our local communities."

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In the areas of justice and crime-prevention, the legislation:

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- Significantly increases funding for the FBI to boost our national security efforts, address the growing threat of cyber crime, and prosecute financial fraud.

- Invests heavily in protecting our borders, providing \$2 billion for the Drug Enforcement Administration to combat drug trafficking with 128 new positions in the Southwest and enhanced resources to investigate, disrupt and dismantle major Mexican drug cartels.

- Provides additional funding for the prosecution of violent crimes against women and strengthens services for the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Invests \$1.1 billion in the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to reduce violent crime and fight drug trafficking along the southwest border.

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The legislation included the following requests made by Congressman Barrow:

- \$75,000 to replace various fire department gear for the City of Wrens Fire Department;
- \$100,000 for a new dispatch system for the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners;
- \$100,000 to purchase eight emergency vehicles for the Emanuel County Board of Commissioners/ Sheriff's Office;
- \$250,000 to construct new Emergency 911, Regional Dispatch, and New Emergency Management Center for the Baldwin County Sheriff's Department.

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The bill also makes significant investments in scientific research and innovation. Specifically, the legislation:

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- Helps our students succeed in a global job market by investing in science, technology, engineering, and math education.
- Funds research on global climate change.
- Invests \$6.9 billion in the National Science Foundation for the most promising scientific research and innovation.

“The best way to make sure America continues to lead is to make sure we can continue to innovate,” added Barrow. “If we’re going to keep up and compete in a new global economy, we’ve got to support scientific research, discovery, and education at every single level. This bill makes historic investments to encourage the work of our scientists, researchers, educators, and students.”

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