



Congressman Sanford Bishop Reports

2nd Congressional District, Georgia

2429 Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC 20515

Summer 2009

Strengthening Our Economy

Stimulus Bill a Step in the Right Direction

When President Obama took office, nearly 3.6 million Americans had lost jobs and millions more were working harder in jobs that paid less with fewer benefits. Nearly \$8 billion in wealth was lost in retirement savings and the stock market. Consumer spending and commercial lending had drastically contracted. Health care and education costs escalated. Bankruptcies, consumer debt and foreclosures were exploding. The economy was on life support. Emergency action was needed.

The President proposed and Congress passed the Stimulus bill and already there are signs that recovery is beginning. Nearly 20,000

Stimulus bill projects have been approved with unprecedented speed and transparency.

Families got immediate financial relief from the bill – an extra \$25 a week in unemployment benefits plus 65% less for COBRA health insurance. For families with job losses, that extra \$100 a month went towards buying groceries, or paying bills or mortgage payments on time. Within weeks of the bill's passage, 95% of working families saw take-home pay increase as a result of the Making Work Pay tax credit.

In addition, families qualifying for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

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Dear Friends,

As the 111th Congress moves into the latter half of its first year, I believe that we are off to a strong start. The Congress has worked with the new Administration to take America in a new direction, to turn our economy around and create good jobs, with common sense reforms and targeted investments in affordable health care, clean energy jobs, educational excellence, fiscal responsibility, and tax fairness. All Americans, including our seniors, our children, and our men and women in uniform are now represented by a Congress striving to be more accountable to them.

Our work in the 111th Congress has focused on meeting the great challenges Americans face. We are working to jumpstart the economy, to improve our nation's failing health care system, to ensure a safe and affordable domestic food supply, to protect our borders, to solve our energy crisis, and to stop the fiscal recklessness that has threatened to compromise our children's future. I believe that we are making progress.

I feel that it is important that you be kept informed of what we are working on in Washington, D.C. Consequently, we prepare this newsletter periodically for the residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District. This summer's edition provides a brief overview of the issues we've faced in 2009 and those that will prove challenging in the year ahead. I hope that you will find an update of the issues that are most important to you, as well as learn something new about an issue with which you weren't previously familiar.

As your representative, it is very important for me to hear your views on the issues that matter to you. I look forward to hearing from you (see addresses and telephone numbers on page 4) and seeing you in person throughout the Second District.

Sincerely,

Sanford Bishop
Member of Congress



Congressman Bishop (left), during a "Stimulus 101" meeting in April 2009 with Fort Valley residents. This and other Stimulus sessions in Columbus, Albany, and Thomasville featured representatives from government agencies who conducted one-on-one "breakout sessions" to answer questions concerning the Stimulus bill.

Helping Our Farmers

GA Peanuts Work to Recover

As you are aware, the U.S. peanut industry has been through a difficult year. In addition to the salmonella issue identified at the Peanut Corporation of America (PCA), peanut producers are faced with a surplus from the 2008 crop. This has resulted in very few 2009 contracts for peanut producers in the marketplace.

Last month I sent a letter, which was cosigned by 19 of my colleagues in the House and Senate, to U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack to encourage him to review the current peanut butter purchases made by the USDA.

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Supporting Our Troops and Veterans

Historic Funding for Troops & Vets

My colleagues and I on the Appropriations Committee spent many hours drafting, revising and finally passing out of Committee the Fiscal Year 2009 Supplemental Appropriations Act, a vital piece of legislation that recognizes the sacrifices of our troops and their families by investing \$1.8 billion in improving military health care and family services.

This legislation, which was approved by the 111th Congress in June, includes historic investments in the needs of America's servicemen and women and their families.

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FY 2009 Federal Money At Work for the Second District

AGRICULTURE - \$4,426,000

- \$267,000 – National Wild Turkey Federation's Operation Oak Program
- \$2,423,000 – Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission Coop Agreement
- \$346,000 – UGA's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to study water use efficiency and water quality enhancements
- \$178,000 – UGA's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to study Phytophthora Research
- \$209,000 – UGA's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences to provide Georgia blueberry growers with unbiased research to improve their production efficiency and quality of product
- \$346,000 – UGA's College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences for cotton insect management and fiber quality
- \$657,000 – Peanut Laboratory (Dawson) to study water use reduction

DEFENSE - \$86,700,000

- \$4,800,000 – Soldier Center at Patriot Park (Ft. Benning)
- \$1,800,000 – Global Supply Chain Management/Advanced Logistics Management at Albany State University (Albany)
- \$1,600,000 – Logistics Tech Improvements, MCLB (Albany)
- \$1,600,000 – Lithium Batteries, SAFT (Valdosta)
- \$1,600,000 – Wire Integration and upgrade, U.S. Aircraft (Byron, GA)
- \$2,400,000 – USMC Logistics Analysis and Optimization, MCLB (Albany)
- \$800,000 – Nursing Program, Darton College (Albany)
- \$65,000,000 – C-37 Aircraft, General Dynamics/Gulfstream (Savannah)
- \$7,100,000 – Air Guard Combat Readiness Center (Savannah)

ENERGY AND WATER - \$11,253,000

- \$3,173,000 for cleanup and maintenance work on the Apalachicola, Chattahoochee and Flint Rivers
- \$8,080,000 for Hydrilla Control at the Jim Woodruff Lock and Dam on Lake Seminole

INTERIOR - \$3,750,000

- \$250,000 for water infrastructure improvements and repairs in Chattahoochee County
- \$3,500,000 to the Conservation Fund through the Forest Legacy Program to help permanently conserve 8,342 acres known as the Silver Lake Tract

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND VETERANS AFFAIRS - \$256,120,000

- Army – Ft. Benning (Columbus) –
- \$8,800,000 – Automated Anti-Armor Range
- \$2,400,000 – Basic 10m – 25m Firing Range 1
- \$2,400,000 – Basic 10m – 25m Firing Range 2
- \$2,350,000 – Basic 10m – 25m Firing Range 3
- \$2,500,000 – Basic 10m – 25m Firing Range 4
- \$2,500,000 – Basic 10m – 25m Firing Range 5
- \$17,500,000 – Digital Multipurpose Training Range
- \$2,450,000 – Fire & Movement Range
- \$42,000,000 – Maintenance Shop
- \$4,900,000 – Modified Record Range 1
- \$4,900,000 – Modified Record Range 2
- \$4,500,000 – Modified Record Range 3
- \$9,100,000 – Range Access Road
- \$39,000,000 – Reception Station Phase 2
- \$6,900,000 – Stationary Tank Range
- \$10,800,000 – Tactical Vehicle Wash Facility
- \$16,000,000 – Tracked Vehicle Driver's Course
- \$32,000,000 – Trainee Complex
- \$16,000,000 – Training Area Infrastructure (South Area)
- \$13,800,000 – Training Area Infrastructure (North Area)
- Marines/Navy – MCLB (Albany) –
- \$15,320,000 – BEQ

A Message About 2010 Appropriations

Since my appointment to the House Appropriations Committee in 2003, I have worked diligently to obtain federal support for worthy projects in the Second Congressional District. I am proud to serve on the Defense, Agriculture, and Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittees, all of which provide an even better position from which to address the issues facing the Second Congressional District.

Since taking control of the House in 2007, Democrats have made needed reforms to the Appropriations process. Many changes have already been implemented, including:

- All Members' appropriations requests must be publicly disclosed on their Web sites at the time the request is made, along with an explanation of the purpose of the request and why it is a valuable use of taxpayer funds;
- Appropriations disclosure tables are made publicly available on the same day as the House or Senate Subcommittee passes its bill;
- A 50% reduction since 2006 in the total dollars committed to earmarks, as well as a reduction in the total number of earmarks approved;
- Appropriations requests will be held below 1% of discretionary spending in all subsequent years.

The House of Representatives has passed all 12 Fiscal Year 2010 (FY2010) Appropriations bills and now awaits action in the Senate on its bills. These bipartisan Appropriations bills are laying a new foundation for lasting prosperity and economic growth with targeted, effective investments and a fiscally responsible approach to the use of taxpayer dollars.

For the most updated information concerning the FY2010 Appropriations process, please visit my Web site at <http://bishop.house.gov>.

TRANSPORTATION/ HUD - \$1,330,000

- \$475,000 – City of Albany Transit to purchase replacement standard transit buses and construct a new multi-modal transit station
- \$142,500 – SOWEGA (Southwest Georgia) Council on Aging for construction of a new senior center for Dougherty County
- \$712,500 – Moultrie Intermodal Facility

HOME LAND SECURITY - \$80,000

- \$80,000 for the City of Coolidge's predisaster mitigation

SCIENCE, COMMERCE, JUSTICE - \$1,250,000

- \$75,000 – Clarence and Maxine Owens Foundation (Bainbridge)
- \$75,000 – Calhoun County Family Connection (Edison)
- \$75,000 – SOWEGA Court Appointed Special Advocates (Americus)
- \$75,000 – Twin Cedars Youth Services Center (Columbus)
- \$75,000 – "Graduation Kitchen Table Workshop" (Roberta)
- \$75,000 – "Totally Teen Zone" after-school program (Albany)
- \$75,000 – Dooly County Community Enrichment Coalition and Family Connection (Vienna)
- \$75,000 – Terrell County Family Connection (Dawson)
- \$75,000 – Pataula Center for Children, Inc. (Blakely)
- \$75,000 – Chattahoochee County Family Connection (Cusseta)
- \$75,000 – Albany Area YMCA (Albany)
- \$75,000 – City of Marshallville, Ga., for an after-school program
- \$75,000 – Muscogee County Marshal's Office (Columbus)
- \$75,000 – Talbot County Family Connection (Talbotton)
- \$50,000 – Kenneth B. Walker Residential Home (Columbus)
- \$75,000 – City of Arlington, Ga., for a youth after-school program
- \$50,000 – Urban League of Greater Columbus, Ga.

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, EDUCATION - \$832,000

- \$95,000 – Albany State University for a model program designed to increase the recruitment and retention of minority students
- \$95,000 – Dougherty County School System for math and science studies at Southside Middle School
- \$95,000 – Ft. Valley State University for science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) recruitment and training
- \$95,000 – SOWEGA Council on Aging to develop a demo program
- \$95,000 – St. Francis Hospital for the update and improvement of facilities and equipment
- \$167,000 – Sumter County Regional Hospital for the update and improvement of facilities and equipment
- \$95,000 – Hospital Authority of Calhoun County for the update and improvement of facilities and equipment
- \$95,000 – Columbus Regional Hospital for the update and improvement of facilities and equipment

For more information on the Appropriations process:
<http://bishop.house.gov>

Honoring Our Infantrymen Infantry Museum Opens

I am pleased to have secured the funding – more than \$18.5 million over five years – for the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Fort Benning. I am equally proud to have been in attendance when the much-anticipated museum opened its doors in June. The museum sits on a 200-acre site that will serve as a tribute to the Infantry's legacy of valor and sacrifice and will also serve as a functional area for basic training, graduations, and other special and community events. In addition, the museum will honor Infantry soldiers for their selfless service to our country, while also preserving for all time the history that so poignantly tells their stories.

It was an honor to have former Secretary of State Colin Powell join us for this special event. A former Infantryman who was stationed at Ft. Benning, General Powell told attendees of the life lessons he learned as a result of his service in the U.S. military. I can think of no better person to have officiated this historic ceremony than our nation's great servant, General Colin Powell.



Congressman Bishop (center, fourth from the left) stands with General Jerry White, General Colin Powell, Mayor Jim Weatherington, and General Michael Barbero at the opening of the National Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning.

Supporting The Mission

Weapons Facility Coming to MCLB Albany

This year, a key project in the Defense Appropriations bill provided \$15,320,000 to the Marine Corps Logistics Base (MCLB) in Albany to construct a secure weapons and vehicle storage facility. Our current mission requires that MCLB Albany provides

Ground Weapons Systems and Light Armored Vehicles. The new facility will provide state-of-the-art protection for long-term storage controlled humidity protection and reduce supply storage costs.

Advocating for and securing this funding

that so positively impacts the MCLB and the surrounding area is an accomplishment that I am proud of – for I take great pleasure in representing the soldiers and military families who live in Georgia's Second Congressional District.

Reforming Health Care
Progress made in Quest for Health Care Reform

When the 111th Congress convened in January, one of our first priorities was to extend health care coverage to millions of uninsured children. On February 4, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) was signed into law. The bill reauthorized SCHIP through FY 2013, and preserved coverage for all 7.1 million children currently covered by SCHIP, including 356,285 children in Georgia. In addition, it extended coverage to 4.1 million uninsured children who were eligible for, but not enrolled in, SCHIP and Medicaid. That includes an additional 181,000 Georgia children.

Covering more eligible children is critical to supporting hard-working families in these difficult economic times. By ensuring health care for these children, families will get regular doctor visits and preventive care so that minor illnesses do not become more serious, saving parents out-of-pocket medical expenses and avoiding costly emergency room care.

Now the House is poised to consider H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act, which will reform our broken health care system. On an issue as important as this, the legislative process must be respected and the Members of Congress must be given ample time to review the bill closely and to hear the concerns of their constituents. All of you will play an important role in the future of health care, and your voices will be heard during the August District Work Period.

When the House reconvenes in September, I will work to ensure that health care reform is bipartisan, reduces costs, does not add to the budget deficit, and includes stronger provisions to improve the delivery of health care, small business protections, and rural health care. It is also important that health care reform preserves patient choice of provider and maintains competition within the marketplace.

The cost of inaction is too great. If we do nothing, health care costs will double during the next ten years and millions of Americans will lose their coverage. Progress will be difficult, but getting it right is more important than getting it done right away.

Preserving Our History
Bill to Expand Carter Historic Site Introduced

In March, I introduced a bipartisan bill in Congress that, if passed, will expand the Jimmy Carter National Historic site located in Plains, Ga. Proposed improvements include the creation of a park campground, development of a multi-use trail, and enhanced facilities for the maintenance and curatorial functions. Additionally, the bill would provide funds to acquire the property that was Billy Carter's gas station, as well as the "Haunted House," the oldest house in Sumter County, where the Carters lived from 1956-1961.

These improvements will not only bolster the local economy and enhance tourism in Plains and Sumter County, but they will also provide people from around the world with a new insight into the life and career of Jimmy Carter, our fellow Georgian and the 39th President of the United States.

The bill is currently being considered by the House Natural Resources Committee and should be up for a full vote in the House later this year.

E-Newsletter to Launch in the Fall of 2009

One of my top priorities is to make sure you are informed about current issues and legislation that is pending before Congress. To help facilitate our communication, I will be launching a monthly e-Newsletter in the fall of 2009 that will be available to any resident of the Second Congressional district who is interested in receiving it.

It is exciting to have this new form of communication to better serve those whom I am proud to represent. The e-Newsletter will be a useful tool as you seek the most up-to-date information on policy and events that affect Southwest Georgia.

To sign up for the e-Newsletter, visit <http://bishop.house.gov/signup>.



Congressman Bishop (third from left) poses with the students who interned in his Washington office during the summer of 2009. From the left: Michael Curley, Lillian Stephens, Jacqueline Gosnell, Sam Drew, and Tony Mitchell.

Training Our Students
GA Students Intern in DC

Georgia college students continue to play an important role in my offices in Washington, Albany, Columbus, and Thomasville. This summer, some of Southwest Georgia's best and brightest young men and women have worked in my offices as interns. Interns are generally college juniors and seniors with an interest in government and who are eager to both work and learn. While assisting the full time staff in the day-to-day operations of the congressional office, these students learn the ins and outs of the legislative process and provide invaluable services to the people of Georgia's Second Congressional District.

Also available for students is the Congressional Page Program, which brings high school juniors from across the country to work and study in the nation's capital. Their service as messengers on the floor of the House of Representatives, as well as within the House complex, is invaluable to the daily operations of Congress.

For information on becoming an intern or a Congressional Page, please visit <http://bishop.house.gov>.

Building Clean Energy
Energy Bill will Create Jobs

Many of you are concerned about H.R. 2454, the American Clean Energy and Security Act, which passed the House of Representatives on June 25, 2009, and awaits action in the Senate. Given its impact on ratepayers throughout Southwest Georgia, your concerns about the bill are understandable. Before the bill was passed, a number of important changes were made to the legislation that will lessen the impact on consumers, as well as farmers and agriculture. For example, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) analyzed the bill and found that the typical American household will not see energy price increases in excess of the price of a postage stamp per day. Moreover, the Center for American Progress found that 31% of households in the Second District would actually receive an average net benefit of \$40.

I supported H.R. 2454 because it will create as many as 59,000 clean energy jobs in Georgia. Adding 59,000 jobs to the Georgia labor market in 2008 would have brought the state's unemployment rate down to 5% from its actual 2008 level of 6.2%. The bill also provides the state with as much as \$4.6 billion for clean energy technologies such as biomass, biogas, and other renewable sources that can bring new economic opportunities to rural areas.

It is important to note that the bill will reduce our dependency on foreign oil, which is of particular concern to Georgians who saw gasoline prices skyrocket last summer. America's reliance on foreign oil has national security and economic implications as well, as it prevents us from confronting a wide range of national security issues in countries such as Sudan, Iran, and Iraq.

Finally, H.R. 2454 includes a number of provisions for agricultural producers. For example, the agriculture and forestry sectors are exempt from the bill's greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements. Instead, the bill establishes an agricultural and forestry offset program at the U.S. Department of Agriculture that will work with farmers, ranchers and forestland owners to design and implement plans that reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions. Farmers, ranchers and forestland owners will earn offsets for these actions, and they can sell the credits to utilities, refiners, or other firms subject to limitations on greenhouse gas emissions.

H.R. 2454 still has a long way to go before being signed into law, including revisions and improvements in the Senate and in the House-Senate Conference. It is crucial that America takes this important first step towards economic, energy, and environmental security.

Addressing the Budget Crisis
PAYGO Restored

In July, the House of Representatives voted to reinstitute statutory pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) rules, a move to restore much-needed fiscal discipline to the federal government. The bill requires that any new mandatory government spending be matched with budget cuts or savings elsewhere.

The PAYGO bill is similar to the statutory PAYGO law that was enacted in the 1990s, which helped reverse huge deficits, created budget surpluses, and produced an economic boom. The previous rules expired in 2002, which contributed to the dramatic turnaround from a projected surplus of \$5.6 trillion to projected deficits of more than \$11 trillion.

The PAYGO bill marks a crucial step in bringing the federal budget under control by following the most basic of budgeting rules: don't spend money you don't have.

Millard Fuller Resolution Passed by House

In February we lost a great American when Millard Fuller, the founder of Habitat for Humanity and the Fuller Center for Housing, passed away. I was honored to introduce a bipartisan resolution in the House of Representatives to celebrate the life and work of Millard Fuller, a resolution which was unanimously passed on June 9.

Throughout his life, Millard Fuller's talent and passion were put on display in no small number of ways. Although he obtained a great fortune from his tireless efforts as a businessman, he soon found that in order to live a life of fulfillment, he had to dedicate himself to a simple life of devotion and service to a higher purpose. Each of us should seek to emulate Millard Fuller's passion for the good and the just, and his selfless pursuit of a better, gentler world.



Congressman Bishop (right) met with Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki during the Secretary's April visit to the Congressman's Washington, DC office.

Military and Veterans

(Continued from page one)

Among the provisions of the bill was an extension of the 21st Century GI Bill of Rights education benefits, which covers the tuition and other expenses for a four-year college education for children of members of the armed forces whose parents died while on active duty.

Additionally, the bill provides our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan with everything they need for the remainder of 2009, including \$25.8 billion for equipment, fully-funded military pay, and compensation for involuntary extensions of duty (stop-loss).

The bill also invests \$488 million in military hospital construction to renovate hospitals that are decades old and do not meet current standards for medical care.

In April, the House passed the Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Resolution, which authorized a \$5.6 billion increase in funding for veterans' health care and other programs, 11.7% more than Fiscal Year 2009. This increase builds upon the success of the previous Congress when \$16.3 billion was added to the VA budget.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, or Stimulus bill, also honored our veterans with an historic funding increase, \$1.4 billion total, for the Department of Veterans Affairs for maintenance at VA medical facilities, construction of veterans' extended care facilities, and veteran cemetery repairs. Additionally, the bill provided economic stimulus payments of \$250 to disabled veterans receiving VA compensation or pension, which are currently being dispersed.

I look forward to building on the 111th Congress' accomplishments and continuing to improve health care and benefits for our military men and women.

Student Artist Honored

Hans Perez of Fort Valley's Peach County High School was the Second Congressional District's 2009 winner of the Congressional Art Competition. His winning entry, "Guarding Freedom," is on display in the U.S. Capitol along with the winning entries from all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Territories.

Initiated by Members of Congress in 1982, the Congressional Art Competition is an annual art competition that encourages young people to develop their artistic talents. The contest is open to all Second District high school students.

Stimulus

(Continued from page one)

saw their benefits increase more than 13% – an \$80 per month increase in the family budget for a household of four. For 54 million seniors, veterans, and other groups, \$250 payments are in the mail, which will be spent in the economy. The Stimulus bill is also creating and saving jobs – an estimated 150,000 jobs in the first 100 days. Approximately \$13 billion in transportation funds have been disbursed, causing a ripple effect in the economy and increasing demand for supplies and services. Georgia has received \$931 million for road widening, resurfacing, and crosswalk safety improvement.

More than 30 states, including Georgia, have now qualified for their share of \$44 billion in State Fiscal Stabilization Funds under the Stimulus bill, an investment that is expected to create or save hundreds of thousands of education-related jobs for teachers and other school personnel. In Muscogee County alone, the school district plans to use \$9 million to create several hundred jobs.

Additionally, the state of Georgia recently received \$32 million in federal Stimulus funds to hire new police officers, including 16 new officers in the Second Congressional District. The funds will cover three years of salaries and benefits for entry-level officers.

Green manufacturers and contractors across the country are experiencing increased demand for products and services resulting from the Stimulus bill's business and homeowner energy efficiency tax incentives.

While immediate relief is moving, the long-term investments in health IT, smart electricity grid, broadband and high-speed rail are significant and will cut costs and create jobs over time. Competition has now opened on more than \$15 billion in contracts for these projects with awards expected by fall. Already, Georgia is proactively lining up projects to install high-speed Internet in rural and underserved areas using federal Stimulus dollars, including many areas throughout Southwest Georgia.

Our economic problems were not created in 100 days and they will not be solved in 100 days, but we are meeting our challenges head-on. The Stimulus bill is already making life better for families and communities across the country – and we are just getting started. With every dollar invested, we will move one step further down the road to recovery. Then we can focus on long-delayed fiscal responsibility remedies such as pay-go, fixing Medicare, social security and balancing our federal budget.

Peanuts

(Continued from page one)

In the early 1990s, USDA peanut butter purchases peaked with more than 80 million pounds used in federal feeding programs. Unfortunately, USDA purchases have diminished to less than half of that amount in the last decade.

As I noted in the letter to Secretary Vilsack, USDA research supports the nutritional benefits of peanut butter for both children and adults. The peanut is rich in protein, fiber, vitamins and minerals. In addition, peanut butter is one of the most cost efficient products for American consumers.

I am hopeful that the USDA will give peanuts every consideration as it prepares to make purchases for federal nutrition and feeding programs. Increasing peanut butter purchases for USDA feeding programs will benefit both consumers and peanut producers.

Need Help?

Working for the People of Georgia's Second Congressional District

My most important job as a Member of Congress is serving Second District constituents. Whether we are helping our young people start their military careers at one of the U.S. Service Academies, making plans for your family to tour the U.S. Capitol, or working with the Social Security Administration to locate your lost Social Security check, my staff members and I are always available to assist you.

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