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UNITED STATES SENATOR • ARKANSAS

John Boozman

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Provisions in funding bills passed by Congress, with the support of U.S. Senator John Boozman (R-AR), stand to deliver numerous benefits for Arkansas for Fiscal Year 2020.

Programs with direct, Arkansas-specific relevance were funded within the following departments and agencies as a result of passage of H.R. 1158, *the National Security Minibus Appropriations Act of 2020* and H.R. 1865, *the Domestic and International Assistance Minibus Appropriations Act of 2020*.

Department of Defense:

- **188th Airlift Wing:** Air National Guard Joint Terminal Attack Controller (JTAC) Contract: \$8 million for the unmet requirement for JTAC initial qualification training and requalification training.
- **Fort Chaffee:** \$1.1 million for Army National Guard range expansion to improve multi-purpose machine gun range for mounted unit training.
- **Pine Bluff Arsenal:** Over \$20 million for munitions manufacturing. The bill also funds manufacturing of chemical-biological personnel protective equipment, for which Pine Bluff Arsenal will become the Army's second source.
- **Research:** Increases research funding for research in which Arkansas schools and businesses are engaged:
 - More than \$15 million for silicon carbide research to make smaller components for more sophisticated, modern weapons
 - \$3.5 million for synthetic medical training
- **Rockets:** Includes over \$525 million for Army, Air Force and Navy/Marine Corps rockets produced in Arkansas.
- **SOCOM:** Provides over \$25 million for identity management for the United States Special Operations Command (SOCOM) operators and their families to reduce the threat posed by their online presence.
- **Light Attack Aircraft:** Provides \$210 million for six additional Light Attack Aircraft.

Military Construction including the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies (MilCon-VA):

- **Little Rock Air Force Base Training:** The MilCon-VA bill includes \$47 million for a C-130H/J Fuselage Trainer facility.
- **MISSION Act:** This bill includes \$8.9 billion in FY20 and \$11.3 billion in FY21 to implement this program that supports medical treatment and health care for more than nine million enrolled patients in VA health care.
- **Support for Blue Water Navy Veterans:** The bill provides \$153.6 million for implementation of the *Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act* and \$3.1 billion for claims processing to ensure that proper staffing and resources are available to reduce wait times and backlog of disability decisions on appeal and to meet the demand for Blue Water Navy eligibility.
- **Veterans Suicide Prevention and Mental Healthcare:** The bill provides \$9.4 billion for mental health services, including \$222 million for suicide prevention. This is a \$435 million increase over FY19.
- **Veterans Homelessness:** The bill provides \$1.9 billion for veterans homelessness, including \$380 million for the Supportive Services for Veterans Families, which provides grants to Arkansas organizations.
- **Female veterans' healthcare:** The bill provides \$585 million for health care services specifically for female veterans. This is a \$90 million increase over FY19.

Department of Agriculture, including Rural Development programs, the Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies:

- **National Center for Toxicological Research:** The bill includes \$66.7 million for this facility located in Jefferson, Arkansas near Pine Bluff. This funding will support the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) research to promote and protect public health.
- **Rural Development:** Included in the bill is significant funding for programs that help rural areas by supporting business development and job training opportunities. The Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Access (ATTRA) program connects Arkansas agricultural producers to information that helps them improve their operations. This bill funds the program at \$2.8 million. ATTRA administers the Armed to Farm program that assists veterans in transition to civilian life by training them for a career in farming. ATTRA has a regional headquarters located in Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- **Support for Fish Farmers:** This bill includes language directing the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to modify its regulations so that producers of farm-raised fish are

eligible for death losses under the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP) and deems bird predation and disease as eligible loss conditions. With nearly 5,000 water surface acres across Arkansas used for aquaculture production, our fish farmers contributed \$71.1 million to our state's economy in 2017. USDA estimates that avian predators such as double-crested cormorants cause more than \$25 million in damage annually within the aquaculture industry.

- **Disaster Assistance:** This bill includes \$1.5 billion in disaster assistance which is being reprogrammed from unspent FY17 disaster funding. This funding is in addition to the \$3 billion in disaster funding approved earlier in 2019. It expands loss coverage to cover quality losses and clarifies eligible disaster events to include excess moisture and D3 drought.

Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies:

- **Community Health Centers (CHCs):** This bill includes funding to health centers that provide low-cost health care. In Arkansas, there are more than 130 CHC facilities that help nearly 200,000 people get the medical, dental, vision and behavioral health care services they need.
- **Graduate Medical Education:** The Medical Student Education Program provides grants to public institutions of higher learning to expand and support education for medical students preparing to practice in states with a projected primary care provider shortage in 2025. Arkansas is one of eight states eligible for \$50 million included in this bill.
- **Fighting the Opioid Epidemic:** This bill includes \$3.8 billion to help fight the opioid epidemic. New flexibility is also provided to states to use funding to combat increasing stimulant use – including methamphetamine – which is still the most prevalent drug of choice in Arkansas.

Departments of Commerce and Justice, as well as science-related programs and agencies:

- **Drug Courts and Veterans Treatment Courts:** The bill supports the critical components of our judicial system that offer an alternative treatment to jail for individuals suffering from drug and alcohol addiction. Drug courts received \$80 million and veterans treatment courts received \$23 million to help break the cycle of addiction. Arkansas launched its first drug court in 1994 and participation in these rehabilitation practices continues to increase.
- **Law Enforcement Grants:** The Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program provides federal, state and local governments the tools to prevent and combat crime and keep their communities safe. In Arkansas, Byrne JAG helps fund multi-jurisdictional programs like Drug Task Forces.

- **Regional Information Sharing System (RISS):** RISS Centers are crucial to combatting violence and safeguarding our communities. This bill provides \$38 million to continue linking criminal justice agencies to combat multijurisdictional crimes and improving information sharing among law enforcement.

Department of the Treasury, including Financial Services and General Government funding:

- **High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Program (HIDTA):** The bill includes \$285 million to support effective and innovative drug control efforts by federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies operating in HIDTA areas. In Arkansas this includes Benton, Jefferson, Pulaski and Washington counties.
- **Drug Free Communities Program:** The bill provides \$101.25 million for community-based coalitions organized to prevent youth substance use.
- **Supporting Small Businesses:** This bill provides more than \$30 million to programs that support small business development including the Federal and State Technology (FAST) Partnership Program, Women’s Business Centers and Regional Innovation Clusters program.

Department of Homeland Security:

- **Law Enforcement Officer Reimbursement Program:** This program supports local law enforcement officers who provide security at airport screening checkpoints. This legislation funds the program at \$46 million to sustain the Transportation Security Administration Law Enforcement Officer program. Arkansas airports rely on this funding to ensure safety of passengers.
- **University Centers of Excellence for Border Security:** This bill includes \$40.5 million for University Programs to allow for ten Centers of Excellence. The University of Arkansas at Little Rock created the Center of Excellence for Criminal Investigations and Network Analysis.
- **Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) and Staffing for Adequate Fire/Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants:** The bill provides \$355 million for Assistance to Firefighter Grants and \$355 million for SAFER Grants which provide funding to local fire departments to hire firefighters, support the training needs of personnel and purchase essential equipment. Arkansas fire departments have received hundreds of thousands in funds to procure critical tools and equipment.
- **Emergency Management Performance Grants:** The bill provides \$355 million in funding that can be allocated to local emergency management services to support emergency preparedness.

Department of the Interior, EPA and Related Agencies:

- **SRF WIN Funding:** This bill includes \$5 million to help meet underserved or unmet water infrastructure needs and support the program Boozman authored to create an innovative approach to modernizing critical water infrastructure.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund:** The bill includes funds to support conservation projects in Arkansas including the Buffalo National River and the Cache River.
- **Marshallese Compact of Free Association Compensation:** Springdale, Arkansas is home to the largest population of Marshallese in the continental U.S. \$5 million is included in this bill as an initial payment in compensation requested by the Marshall Islands for adverse financial and economic impacts of U.S. nuclear testing conducted in the Pacific.

Departments of Transportation, Housing and Urban Development:

- **Contract Tower Program:** The bill funds this program—which provides enhanced safety, improved air traffic control services and significant FAA cost savings—at \$170 million. There are five contract towers in Arkansas: Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville and Texarkana.
- **Community Planning and Development:** The bill provides \$3.4 billion for the Community Development Block Grant program, the federal government's largest and most widely available source of financial assistance supporting state and local government-directed neighborhood revitalization, housing rehabilitation and economic development activities. Grants are used to implement plans intended to address housing, community development and economic development needs, as determined by local officials.

Department of Energy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Related Agencies:

- **McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS):** The bill includes report language discussing the importance of the MKARNS inland waterway deepening and encourages the Corps to provide funds for non-structural activities, such as channel deepening, with low annual funding needs.
- **Delta Regional Authority (DRA):** The DRA works to improve economic opportunity for residents of the Delta region through targeted investments. DRA has invested nearly \$33 million in Arkansas. This bill includes \$30 million for the DRA which supports grants to the region and funding for basic public infrastructure development and transportation improvements.

