

Nancy Johnson



Fifth District, Connecticut

www.house.gov/nancyjohnson

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Contact: Brian Schubert

(202) 225-4476

Johnson Secures Funds for Audubon Center in Southbury *\$100,000 in Federal Funds to Help Construct New Educational Facilities*

SOUTHBURY, CT – Congresswoman Nancy Johnson today announced \$100,000 in federal funds for the Audubon Center at the Bent of the River to renovate existing facilities and construct a welcome center.

Johnson secured the funds in the fiscal year 2005 spending bill for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“The Audubon Center in Southbury is an important educational and environmental resource for Connecticut,” Johnson said. “This new funding will help the Center at the Bent of the River realize its goals and offer more and better services to our communities and our school children.”

“Audubon is thrilled to be receiving this grant and is deeply grateful to Representative Johnson for her singular leadership in securing these funds,” said John Longstreth, the center’s director. “This grant will allow us to renovate our historic barn as a welcome center and as a year-round base for schools and public nature education programs. The improved facilities will serve as a gateway to the Bent’s 15 miles of walking trails that wind through 660 acres of important bird and wildlife habitat.”

The \$100,000 in federal funds will help Audubon and its partners to continue renovation of an existing barn, construct a maintenance barn, classrooms and office space. These projects will improve outdoor, science and environmental education services to area schoolchildren, youth groups and citizens.

The Bent of the River is a 660 acre historic farm that was donated to Audubon in 1993. Over the past two years, Audubon has been working with community leaders and conservation groups to transform Bent into a fully functioning nature center. That transformation is on-going, and Bent now serves visitors from Danbury to Waterbury and Litchfield to New Haven. The new nature center will serve schoolchildren from 26 school districts in 35 towns. Twenty-five percent of the state’s population lives within the Bent’s service area.

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