

SENATOR SANTORUM DELIVERS MAJOR FUNDING IN JEFFERSON, ELK, FOREST, AND VENANGO COUNTIES

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Jefferson County, PA – U.S. Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA), Chairman of the Senate Republican Conference, joined Congressman John Peterson (R-5-PA) in Jefferson County today to deliver \$3.2 million to the DuBois-Jefferson County Airport. The funding was included in Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA LU), a transportation funding bill which reauthorizes federal funding for surface transportation programs for five fiscal years, through fiscal year 2009. The funding will be used for construction on Airport Access Road connecting Interstate 80 with the airport. Senator Santorum was able to secure \$2 million in SAFETEA LU and Congressman Peterson secured \$1.2 million, meaning a total of \$3.2 million for this major project.

"I am very pleased to bring this funding to the DuBois-Jefferson County Airport today," said Senator Santorum. "In my leadership role in the United States Senate, I have worked very hard to ensure that the transportation needs of Pennsylvanians were addressed in the transportation funding approved in a bipartisan fashion by Congress and signed by President Bush last month."

"The Airport Authority appreciates the support shown by Senator Santorum to assist in the completion of this important economic development tool for the DuBois-Jefferson County Airport," said DuBois-Jefferson County Airport Manager Robert W. Shaffer.

Later in Elk County, Senator Santorum delivered \$2 million for the construction of the Johnsonburg Bypass designed to relieve traffic congestion and improve safety on U.S. Route 219 through downtown Johnsonburg.

"I am pleased that we could come through for Elk County and bring \$2 million dollars here today to help in the construction of the Johnsonburg Bypass. This project is vital to growth and mobility in Elk County," said Senator Santorum.

Senator Santorum also delivered \$1 million for the Area Transportation Authority of North Central Pennsylvania in Cameron County for the purchase of new buses. Current buses are past their assigned useful life and are in need of replacement.

Following the funding presentations, Senator Santorum discussed home health care at the Ridgway Senior Center with administrators from several senior health care and service providers from Cameron, Elk, and McKean Counties.

"As a member of the Senate Finance Committee and the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I appreciate the opportunity to hear the concerns regarding home health care; and I look forward to working with my colleagues in the United States Senate to ensure that home health care will be able to meet future demands and remain accessible to all Pennsylvanians," said Senator Santorum.

"Today's visit is an exceptional opportunity for home care providers to hear from Senator Santorum and to learn his ideas and views on this important topic," said Bill Orzechawski, Executive Director of Area Agency on Aging for Cameron, Elk, and McKean Counties. "It's commendable that he has taken the time to visit the senior center."

Senator Santorum has repeatedly cosponsored legislation that would increase Medicare payments for home health services provided in rural areas. Additionally, over the years, when access to home health services has been threatened by proposed reductions in payments or policies that would place unnecessary burdens upon Pennsylvania home health providers, Senator Santorum has written on behalf of the home health community to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have continued access to quality home health services.

In Forest County, Senator Santorum met with representatives from the Hunting and Fishing Museum of Pennsylvania. Senator Santorum secured a federal appropriation of \$99,200 for the museum this year in support of the museum's development. Senator Santorum toured a newly

constructed Activity Center, which will house educational and interactive activities for visitors.

"The Hunting and Fishing Museum of Pennsylvania sincerely appreciates Senator Santorum's efforts to secure Institute of Museum and Library Services funding for our project," said Julia McCray, an Administrator with the Hunting and Fishing Museum. "This grant will be one of many pieces of the funding puzzle, which includes state, federal and private dollars. It is a complicated and labor intensive process to locate and secure funding for a project of this size. With the competitiveness of the public funding arena, it is imperative that we have the assistance of our Senators, Representatives and Congressman to get our applications noticed and approved."

In Venango County, Senator Santorum presented funding for improvements and upgrades of State Route 62/257 to reduce congestion. Additionally, Senator Santorum announced \$200,000 for the Oil Heritage Region to unite and revitalize the northwest region of Pennsylvania as the birthplace of the oil industry through the development, preservation, and promotion of the region's cultural, recreational, historic and natural resources.

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