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For Immediate Release

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Washington D.C. - The Defense Appropriations Conference Committee has agreed on a compromise version of the 2007 Defense Appropriation that includes funding for several important national programs that are managed or manufactured by companies or institutions in Washington, Greene and Allegheny counties, Congressman John Murtha announced today. The bill is expected to be approved by the House and Senate and sent to the White House for signature by the President.

"These programs are vital to our national security and to our troops in the field," Murtha said. "The companies and universities in our area, as well as their employees, are rightfully proud of the work they do to support our troops with quality products at competitive prices."

Included in the bill are:

- * RJ Lee, Waynesburg, operation of the Engine Health Management Data Repository Center

- * Philips Electronics, Chartiers Township, in partnership with KLA Tencor of San Jose, Calif., to continue the development of imprint based nano-lithography that will enable the Department of Defense to build ultra high speed systems that are critical to the development of smart weapons systems

- * Progeny Systems, Alta Vista Business Park, for integration of new technologies including torpedo and sonar modifications into the Virginia class submarine

- * Nokomis, Charleroi, to continue their work on Electronic Signature Detection of improvised explosive devices (IEDs)

- * Body Media, Pittsburgh, research on a non-invasive glucose monitoring device that will enable diabetics to monitor their glucose level without pricking their finger several times a day

Congressman Murtha also worked to direct funding to area colleges and universities for projects that benefit the military. Schools that will receive funding include the following:

Washington and Jefferson College - a program to aid the Department of Defense in its combat stress intervention

California University of Pennsylvania in partnership with Carnegie Mellon University - continued work on development of a robotics curriculum within the engineering discipline at the undergraduate level

Health care initiatives funded in the measure include:

Children's Hospital, Pittsburgh, projects on muscular dystrophy research and to improve the prediction, understanding and management of complications of Type I diabetes

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center - development of neuroprosthetics and solutions for spinal cord dysfunction and a program to evaluate and treat traumatic brain injury; also funding for UPMC's Diabetes Institute for continuation and expansion of comprehensive systems that address both the needs of children and adults that include enhanced data tracking, medical record keeping systems, prevention and education programs for the U.S. Air Force, UPMC Diabetes Institute, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh and Conemaugh Health System