

United States Senator

BOB BENNETT

Utah

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**CONGRESS APPROVES FINAL SPENDING BILL ,
MEASURE INCLUDES OVER \$50 MILLION
REQUESTED BY BENNETT FOR UTAH PROJECTS**

*Also Includes Bennett Language on Chemical Weapons
Transportation, National Monument Designation and School
Trust Lands*

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The U.S. Senate passed a comprehensive spending measure today which authorizes continued operation of the government and includes over \$50 million requested by Utah Senator Bob Bennett (R) for various Utah projects, as well as language addressing transportation of chemical weapons, the new national monument and Utah school trust lands.

Senator Bennett included language in the bill preventing the expenditure of funds for the study of transportation of chemical weapons. The Department of Defense Authorization bill included authorization of \$25 million to study the possibility of transporting the nation's chemical stockpile to other sites. The Bennett language will prevent such a study from taking place.

School Trust Lands language was also included by Senator Bennett which states that the president's designation of a national monument in Utah will result in revenue losses to the state due to the inclusion of 200,000 acres of school trust lands within the monument boundaries. The language directs the Secretary of Education to report to the Appropriations Committee with recommendations for federal remedies to mitigate the impact to education funding. The Department is also directed to work with the state of Utah in drafting these recommendations.

Also with respect to the president's designation of a national monument in Utah, Senator Bennett included language in the bill directing the Secretary of the Interior to submit a report to Congress by February 1, 1997 detailing the cost associated with the monument, the process for developing a management plan and a description of how affected parties will be involved in the process for developing the management plan. The Secretary should also submit by April 1, 1997 a plan for implementing an exchange of school trust lands located within the monument.

Following is a list of Utah projects which received funding in the bill as a result

of Bennett's requests:

- \$11.4 million to fund site design costs at the new Frank E. Moss Courthouse Annex in Salt Lake City. (See attached)
- \$3 million for improvement of protective and communication services in Ogden to meet the city's growing security demands in preparation for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.
- \$113.5 million in Payment-in-Lieu-of-Taxes money of which Utah receives a percentage, at Bennett's urging up from \$101.5 million Administration request
- \$5 million for Zion National Park shuttle system -- not included in House, Bennett secured in Senate bill.
- \$25 million for Ute Indian Water Rights Settlement
- \$1.4 million for the U.S. Forest Service to begin construction and preparation for the 2002 Winter Olympics.
- \$2 million for the Desert Tortoise Habitat Conservation Plan in Washington County.
- \$750,000 to begin implementation of the Virgin River Management Plan
- \$1.7 million for Utah fish hatcheries

The funding measure goes to the White House tonight for presidential signature before midnight.

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