2003 Legislative Activities

Every year, Senator Levin prepares a report summarizing his key legislative activities. You can jump to a topic below by clicking on the link.

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- Focusing on Education
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- Fighting for Consumers and Promoting Corporate Responsibility
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Expanding Economic Opportunities for Working Families

Fighting for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Fought to address an Internal Revenue Service proposal that would have prevented many working Americans from claiming the earned income tax credit (EITC). The EITC has been highly successful in assisting persons in low-income families raising children to transition from welfare to work, and in 2001 helped lift an estimated four million Americans above the poverty line. While the IRS is proceeding with its pilot program, the proposal was substantially revised and reflects improvements from the original version.

Extending Unemployment Compensation Benefits. Sponsored the most comprehensive unemployment legislation in the Senate in 2003, which would have extended the federal unemployment benefit program, authorized an additional 13 weeks of federal unemployment assistance, and allowed more states to qualify for additional federal assistance.

Minimum Wage Increase. Original cosponsor of legislation which would have raised the minimum wage by $1.50 in three increments.

Modernizing Collective Bargaining. Original cosponsor of legislation that would establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations as well as to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts.

Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Cosponsored the Employment Non-Discrimination Act that would prohibit employment discrimination based on real or perceived sexual orientation. Currently, federal law provides basic legal protection against employment discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin or disability.

Small Business Intermediary Lending Pilot Program. Authored a

Small Business Intermediary Lending Pilot Program. Authored a provision included in the Small Business Administration 50th Anniversary Reauthorization Act of 2003, which passed the Senate, to establish the Small Business Intermediary Lending Pilot Program to address the needs of expanding small businesses. The pilot lending program is aimed at businesses that need loans that are larger than those available under the SBA Microloan Program but are unable to secure the credit they need through conventional lenders.

Drought Assistance for Small Business Hurt by Low Water Levels on Great Lakes.
Authored a provision included in the Small Business Administration 50th Anniversary Reauthorization Act of 2003, which passed the Senate, to provide disaster relief to small businesses damaged by drought. The provision would make low interest rate loans available to small businesses that were hurt by low water levels on the Great Lakes.

Fighting for Fair Trade and a Level Playing Field for U.S. Manufacturing. As Co-Chairman of the Senate Auto Caucus and Senate Auto Parts Task Force, Senator Levin pressed the administration to take strong measures to persuade China, Japan and other trading partners to end the practice of undervaluing their currencies which makes their exports less expensive and puts U.S. workers and exports at a disadvantage. He also urged the Administration to press China to adhere to the market opening commitments it made when joining the World Trade Organization, particularly regarding automotive manufacturers' ability to fully participate in the Chinese automotive market.

Focus: HOPE.

- Secured funding to assist Detroit's Focus: HOPE in its mission to provide education, training and placement in technology and manufacturing jobs. Secured $4.2 million for the Army's Mobile Parts Hospital, a state-of-the-art project that will enable the Army to machine and fashion replacement parts for military systems in the field.
- Secured $300,000 to renovate Focus: HOPE's job training facility, the Machinist Training Institute (MTI). The MTI has opened a path of economic opportunity in manufacturing jobs for thousands of Detroit students. The renovation and expansion of the facility will allow MTI to continue its innovative program to provide Michigan state-licensed training in precision machining and tool work.
- Obtained $98.9 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which provides foodstuffs to the elderly, young mothers, and children. Focus: HOPE, the nation's largest participant in this program, feeds tens of thousands each month.
- Helped secure $300,000 for Focus:HOPE to fund the relocation and renovation of the existing food program warehouse operations. For 35 years, Focus: HOPE has revitalized the area of Oakman Boulevard southwest of the requested renewal site, taking abandoned and underutilized buildings and land, redeveloping and reusing them, and creating unprecedented and unequaled job training programs.

The Automotive Research Center (ARC). Secured $5.1 million to enable the U.S. Army's Automotive Research Center in Warren to increase its assistance for basic research programs. The ARC is a

increase its assistance for basic research programs. The ARC is a university-based U.S. Army Center of Excellence tasked with creating advanced simulation software and studying technologies for military and civilian ground vehicles. The University of Michigan leads an eight-university consortium which includes Wayne State University and Oakland University.

Casting Emissions Reduction Program (CERP). Secured $4 million for the Casting Emissions Reduction Program (CERP), which is a partnership between private industry and the U.S. Army. One million dollars of these funds will be used to assist GM's Malleable Iron Plant located in Saginaw with efforts to develop new, environmentally-friendly metal casting technology.

Wayne State University Center for Smart Sensors and Integrated Microsystems. Obtained $1 million for Wayne State University for the Center of Smart Sensors and Integrated Microsystems from NASA to continue the development of a clean room which will be used to create smart sensing devices.

Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce. Authored a Senate resolution commemorating the Detroit Regional Chamber's 100th anniversary.

Closing The Gap. Helped secure $105,000 for Closing The Gap in Lansing for job training technology enhancements.

Van Andel Research Institute. Helped secure $470,000 for the Van Andel Research Institute for a good manufacturing practices facility in Grand Rapids.

Detroit Riverfront revitalization project. Helped secure $250,000 for the Detroit Riverfront revitalization project. For most of the past century, the Detroit Riverfront was home to shipping docks, factories and railroad yards, and this funding will help to re-claim this valuable riverfront and preserve it for generations to come.

South Washington Street Project. Helped secure $500,000 for the South Washington Street Project, which will be used to acquire several pieces of blighted property for redevelopment within downtown Saginaw. The South Washington Improvement Initiative began in 1999 to eliminate blight, improve Washington Avenue, and create a new development for the city. The mission is to promote redevelopment in the South Washington Area, a region of the city where 66.4% of its residents are of low-to-moderate income levels.

Mexicantown International Welcome Center and Mercado. Helped secure $500,000 for the Mexicantown International Welcome Center and Mercado to create 84 new businesses and 195 new jobs in a low-income, distressed area; expand retail and office space in the Mexicantown district; offer cultural and arts programs; and greet international visitors as they enter Detroit, Michigan and the United States. It also includes a Mercado, a small business incubator that will highlight Mexican and Latino culture, and a plaza which will serve as a public gathering space for outdoor vendors, open-air performances

public gathering space for outdoor vendors, open-air performances, events, and community celebrations.

City Opera House. Helped secure $225,000 to renovate the City Opera House in Traverse City, which was built in 1891 and is one of three Opera Houses from that era remaining in Michigan. It is listed on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

City of Parchment. Helped secure $250,000 for the City of Parchment to redevelop a brownfield site that is the result of a closed paper mill. The redevelopment of this site will help the city's revitalization efforts.

Ludington Regional Marketing Program. Helped secure $250,000 for the cities of Ludington, Michigan and Manitowac, Wisconsin for regional marketing programs. Tourism is critical to their local economies, and the existing ferry service between the cities has an annual economic impact of $20 million in the Ludington area. Both communities are located in counties with unemployment rates among the highest levels in their respective states.

Automation Alley. Helped secure $450,000 for Automation Alley, a consortium of 500 technology companies in Southeast Michigan, to develop a technology center. The State of Michigan has pledged $2 million to this effort and the National Automotive Center has pledged $500,000. The center will be supported by local tax increment financing once complete.

Keeping Our Families Safe and Healthy

HEALTH CARE:

Automated Clinical Practice Guidelines. Helped secure $6.3 million for a coordinated program between Ford Health Systems and Tripler Army Hospital to automate clinical practice guidelines. The goal of this partnership is to create a system for the collection and coordination of medical data so that medical services can be tailored to individual needs.

Research into Chronic Multi-Symptom Illnesses. Helped secure $5 million for research on treatments for Gulf War illnesses and other undiagnosed post-deployment illnesses. This research is being conducted by the Center for Chronic Pain and Fatigue Research, located at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and is overseen by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command.

Protecting Retiree Coverage. Sponsored an amendment to protect current retiree coverage from being adversely impacted by the passage of a Medicare prescription drug bill.

Dental Services for Kids. Cosponsored a bill to make grants available to states to improve dental services for children enrolled in Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

Medicare Reimbursement for Hospitals. Original cosponsor of bill that would provide appropriate and equitable Medicare reimbursement for hospitals.

Health Coverage for Legal Immigrants. Original cosponsor of bill that would grant states the option of covering eligible women and child resident aliens under the Medicaid and SCHIP program.

Rural Health Care. Original cosponsor of bill to make equitable Medicare reimbursements to rural providers, including hospitals and doctors.

Family Opportunity Act. Original cosponsor of bill that would give states the option of allowing families of disabled children to purchase Medicaid coverage for them.
Universal Health Care. Original cosponsor of bill to insure all U.S. children born after 2004.

Repealing Arbitrary Medicare Caps. Cosponsor of bill to repeal the $1500 caps placed on outpatient rehabilitation services under Medicare.

Passing on State-negotiated Drugs Discounts to Everyone. Original cosponsor of a bill that clarifies that current law does not prohibit a state from entering into drug rebate agreements in order to make outpatient prescription drugs accessible and affordable for residents of the state who are not otherwise eligible for medical assistance under the Medicaid program.

Protecting Nurses. Original cosponsor of legislation that limits the number of mandatory hours nurses are forced to work in certain situations.

Medicaid Assistance. Cosponsor of legislation to assist states with their Medicaid costs by increasing the federal contribution.

Patients' Bill of Rights. Original cosponsor of bill to give managed care patients new legal protections with regards to HMOs.

Mental Health Parity. Original cosponsor of bill that would give mental health patients the same rights as those suffering from other physical diseases with respect to insurance companies.

Social Security. Original cosponsor of Senate resolution protecting Social Security beneficiaries from cost of living adjustment cuts.

Drug Reimportation. Original cosponsor of legislation that would have allowed American citizens, U.S.-licenced pharmacists, and drug wholesalers to import FDA-approved medications from Canada. This legislation was passed by the Senate in June 2003 by a 62-28 bipartisan vote.

Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit. Original cosponsor of legislation

Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit. Original cosponsor of legislation that would add a voluntary, affordable prescription drug benefit to the Medicare program.

Helping Health Care Providers Deal with Substantial Medicare Cuts. Cosponsored legislation that would have added $43 billion over 10 years to Medicare and Medicaid to alleviate scheduled cuts to hospitals, physicians, home health agencies, nursing homes and other providers.

Muskegon Community Health Project. Helped secure $225,000 for the Muskegon Community Health Project in Muskegon for the Access Health program.

Detroit-Wayne County Health Authority. Helped secure $500,000 for the Detroit-Wayne County Health Authority of Michigan to assess regional healthcare best practices initiatives.

Michigan Research Institute. Helped secure $400,000 for the Michigan Research Institute in Ann Arbor for research and development of medical technologies.

Mid-Michigan Medical Center. Helped secure $100,000 for the Mid-Michigan Medical Center in Midland.

Western Michigan University, College of Health and Human Services. Helped secure $500,000 for Western Michigan University College of Health and Human Services in Kalamazoo to deploy wireless technology in health care.

Wayne County Michigan. Helped secure $200,000 for Wayne County and Detroit for an infant mortality prevention, education, and outreach project.

Cherry Street Health Services. Helped secure $230,000 for Cherry Street Health Services in Grand Rapids.

Capital Area's Angel House Project. Helped secure $197,000 for Child and Family Services at the Capital Area's Angel House Project in Lansing.

Hillsdale Community Health Center. Helped secure $58,000 for the Hillsdale Community Health Center.

Lapeer Regional Hospital. Helped secure $15,000 for Lapeer Regional Hospital; $25,000 for the Asthma Intervention and Management Program; and $60,000 for the Geriatric Assessment Program.

Mercy Hospital in Cadillac. Helped secure $225,000 for Mercy Hospital in Cadillac.

Oakwood Healthcare System. Helped secure $500,000 for Oakwood

Healthcare System in Dearborn.

Port Huron Hospital. Helped secure $400,000 for Port Huron Hospital.

Jewish Association for Residential Care. Helped secure $150,000 for the Jewish Association for Residential Care in Farmington Hills.

SAFETY:

Security Guard Background Checks. Was the lead sponsor of the Private Security Officer Employment Authorization Act of 2003, a bill that would provide private security firms an opportunity to have national criminal history information searches undertaken to determine whether employees or applicants for employment pose a threat to the facilities and persons they are supposed to protect. The bill passed the Senate in November 2003.

Hate Crimes Legislation. Cosponsored the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, also known as the “Hate Crimes” bill. Too many acts of violent bigotry in the last several years have put our nation’s commitment to diversity in jeopardy. Law enforcement organizations such as the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Sheriffs' Association and the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association all support passage of federal hate crimes legislation.

Disaster Assistance for Upper Peninsula Flood Victims. Secured $10.4 million in Army Corps of Engineers flood damage remediation assistance for flood victims in the Upper Peninsula.

Emergency Fire Equipment. Helped secure millions of dollars in funding for fire departments throughout Michigan for training, firefighting equipment, protective gear, and prevention programs that keep our citizens safe.

Energy Assistance. Helped secure $1.9 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, over $97 million of which will go to Michigan.

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Police Force. Helped secure $300,000 to improve the equipment and training for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe’s police force.

Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Michigan. Helped secure $750,000 for the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Michigan for the Victims of Crime program.

Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries. Helped secure $250,000 for Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries for a youth corrections program to keep troubled young people in school and away from drug use and gangs.

Oakland County Sheriff's Department. Helped secure $1 million for

the Oakland County Sheriff's Department for an Identification Based Information System (IBIS) that includes portable hand-held digital fingerprint and photo devices for patrol cars.

Wayne County. Helped secure $1 million for Wayne County to develop a countywide communication system to ensure that devices used by police, fire, and emergency personnel can interact effectively.

St. Clair County. Helped secure $750,000 for St. Clair County to upgrade emergency communications equipment.

City of Detroit. Helped secure $300,000 for the City of Detroit to upgrade law enforcement communications equipment.

Battle Creek Around the CLOCK Youth Program. Helped secure $150,000 for the City of Battle Creek to implement the “Around the CLOCK” (Center for Leadership Options for Community Kids) Youth Program, designed to provide an alternative to the street for at-risk young people.

Protecting the Great Lakes and Michigan’s Environment

THE GREAT LAKES:

Great Lakes Basin Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Program. Worked to secure $2.5 million in funding for the Great Lakes Basin Soil Erosion and Sediment Control program. The soil erosion control program is designed to prevent and control sediment runoff in the Great Lakes basin. Soil erosion and sedimentation degrade water quality, reduce agricultural productivity, harm fish and wildlife habitat, limit water-based recreation, and damage water treatment and public water supply infrastructure.

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act Grants. Helped secure $500,000 for grants to the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission, states, Indian tribes and other interested entities to restore fish and wildlife resources to the Great Lakes basin. These grants may also be used to encourage cooperative conservation, restoration, and management of fish and wildlife resources and their habitat.

Great Lakes Joint Ventures Program. Helped secure $646,000 for the Joint Ventures Program, which encourages partnerships among federal, state, and local governments to meet our commitment to the international North American Wildfowl Management Plan. By working cooperatively through voluntary, non-regulatory agreements, partners conserve important migratory wetland and grassland habitat. Nationwide, these programs have helped protect over 5.3 million acres of wetland habitat.

Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration. Helped secure $736,000 for a program which allows the Army Corps of Engineers to cooperate with

program which allows the Army Corps of Engineers to cooperate with other federal, state and local agencies and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to plan, implement and evaluate projects supporting the restoration of the fishery, ecosystem and beneficial uses of the Great Lakes.

Biohydrology Inventory. Helped secure $300,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers to finish compiling information within the federal government that is relevant to sustainable water use management. This information will be needed to make decisions about the appropriate, sustainable use of Great Lakes water.

Invasive Species. Authored a bipartisan, bicameral bill to reauthorize the National Invasive Species Act. Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to the ecosystem health of the Great Lakes. There was a legislative hearing on the bill but the full Senate did not act on it in 2003.

Saugatuck Dunes. Helped secure $2.5 million for the acquisition of the Saugatuck Dunes, enabling the government to permanently protect and provide public access to one of the last great stretches of undeveloped shoreline in West Michigan.

Great Lakes Water Levels. Helped secure funding for the International Joint Commission (IJC) for the fourth year of the Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River Study. This five year study provides the information needed to evaluate the Lake Ontario/St. Lawrence River Orders of Control (orders that dictate the regulation of Great Lakes water), which have not been formally reviewed for 50 years.

Navigation. Helped secure $2.5 million for the construction of the larger replacement lock at Sault Ste. Marie. Over 80 million tons of cargo move through this lock complex, so it is vital to the regional industries, the lake carriers and the ports that larger ships be able to navigate through this passage.

Great Lakes Strategic Plan. Worked to fund the second year of a comprehensive Great Lakes Strategic Plan in which the Army Corps of Engineers would provide Congress with recommendations for navigation improvements, environmental restoration activities, water level control, flood damage reduction and other activities.

Contaminated Sediments. Helped secure $10 million to fund the newly enacted Great Lakes Legacy program. This funding for the Environmental Protection Agency will reinvigorate current cleanup efforts at Areas of Concern.

OTHER WATERS:

Saugatuck Harbor: Helped secure up to $300,000 for Corp of Engineers maintenance dredging at Saugatuck Harbor.

Belle Isle: Helped secure $180,000 for Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

Belle Isle: Helped secure $180,000 for Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration and over $160,000 for the Belle Isle Park and shoreline restoration.

Muskegon Lake: Helped secure $100,000 for Corps of Engineers environmental dredging at Muskegon Lake.

Ramsay, Bessemer Township and Gogebic County: Secured $300,000 for Ramsay, Bessemer Township and Gogebic County for emergency streambank and shoreline protection funding for planning, design analysis and construction.

Baraga County: Secured $100,000 for planning and design analysis at Sturgeon River, Baraga County.

Ontonagon Harbor: Secured $75,000 for Ontonagon Harbor for feasibility study.

Rouge River. Secured $100,000 for the Supplemental Plan of the Rouge River; $25,000 for environmental dredging; $100,000 for Upper Rouge River for feasibility study; $310,000 for Lower Rouge River for feasibility study and $320,000 for Rouge River Oxbow for feasibility study.

Luna Pier. Secured $75,000 to complete feasibility study and initiate plans and specifications for the Luna Pier shoreline project.

Grand River. Secured $100,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers' greenway corridor study in Lansing.

Michigan Harbors. Helped secure millions of dollars for the operation and maintenance dredging of Michigan harbors.

RESEARCH:

Assessment of Great Lakes Monitoring. Worked with the General Accounting Office (GAO) to review and assess federal and state monitoring programs in the Great Lakes. As part of this assessment, GAO will identify the major obstacles to the development of indicators and an overall monitoring system, and will identify what needs to be done before indicators and monitoring can be developed and put in place.

Western Michigan University. Helped secure $500,000 for Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo for the Great Lakes Center for Environmental and Molecular Science.

Clinton River Watershed. Helped secure $675,000 for the Clinton River Watershed Initiative for watershed research and modeling, creation of a web-based database on stream flow and water quality, bacterial source tracking, and outreach activities.

Great Lakes Environmental Monitoring Tool. Obtained $500,000 for

use by the Altarum Institute to develop a computer modeling tool that examines the benefits that various conservation programs have on water quality in the Great Lakes basin.

Great Lakes Maritime Academy. Secured $3.7 million for funds to retrofit a U.S. Naval vessel for use by the Great Lakes Maritime Academy as a training ship for mariners. The retrofit will increase berthing from 40 to 80 to accommodate crew and cadets, add a state-of-the-art classroom and lab, and upgrade the sewage and engineering systems. The 225-foot vessel is stationed on Northwestern Michigan College's Great Lakes campus.

CLEAN ENERGY:

National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium. Helped secure $2 million for the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium. These funds will help 20 member institutions, including Lansing Community College, develop training curricula and materials for technicians who service alternative fuels vehicles.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs. Worked with other Senators to secure funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs such as weatherization assistance, the state energy program and the Energy Star program.

Advanced Spacecraft Technology. Secured $4.7 million in funding for the development of solar panels that are potentially cheaper, lighter and more efficient than current solar arrays. Lighter weight solar arrays will drastically reduce the cost of satellite launches. Unisolar Corporation, a joint venture between Energy Conversion Devices and N.V. Bekaert S.A, of Auburn Hills will participate in this program.

Silicon Substrates for Solar Cells. Helped secure $4 million in funding for this program to develop silicon substrates for advanced solar cells. Work will be performed at DOW/Corning of Midland.

PARKS, FORESTS and MUSEUMS:

Seaman Mineral Museum. Secured $994,100 for the Seaman Mineral Museum in Houghton. The museum displays a rich record of mining in Michigan, housing nearly 60,000 mineral, rock and fossil specimens. The funding is needed for historical building restoration/renovation and for construction of a new building to replace the current facility.

Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Secured $1 million for land acquisition at Sleeping Bear Dunes.

Ottawa National Forest. Helped secure $2.5 million for land acquisition for the Ottawa National Forest.

Kris Eggle Monument: Helped secure an authorization for up to $70,000 in National Park Service funding that can be used for the

construction of a memorial in Cadillac, Michigan, to Kris Eggie, a National Park Service ranger who was killed in the line of duty. Kris was from Cadillac and was very active in service to the community before leaving the area to serve in the National Park Service.

Willing Seller Legislation: Senator Levin sponsored legislation to amend the National Trails System Act to provide authority for the government to acquire land from willing sellers to complete nine national scenic and historic trails, including the North Country National Scenic Trail, which was passed by the Senate. A quarter of the North Country Trail runs through Michigan, so much of this new construction will occur in the state. Without this bill, a landowner who wants to sell to the federal government is denied the right to do so.

Detroit International Wildlife Refuge. Worked with other Senators to secure passage of legislation that expanded the Detroit International Wildlife Refuge.

Transfer Coast Guard Vessel BRAMBLE to Port Huron Museum. Authored legislation included in Senate Committee Coast Guard Reauthorization bill that would enable a museum in Port Huron to convert a historic vessel, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter BRAMBLE, into a floating maritime exhibit. The BRAMBLE is one of 39 180-foot seagoing buoy tenders built between 1942 and 1944. The BRAMBLE and two of its sister ships, the SPAR and the STORIS, made history in 1957 when they forged a path through the Arctic between Pacific and Atlantic ports, becoming the first surface vessels ever to circumnavigate North America.

Ottawa National Forest. Helped secure $1.5 million for land acquisition for the Ottawa National Forest.

OTHER:

Brownfield Redevelopment. Authored legislation to help communities expedite the economic redevelopment of brownfields, which are abandoned, idled or under-used industrial and commercial properties, where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. The Brownfields Economic Development Act would have made it easier for the Department of Housing and Urban Development to give economic development grants to local governments. The Senate passed legislation that included language contained in the Levin bill that would have provided the Secretary with discretion to make BEDI grants independent of Section 108 loan guarantees, but that language was ultimately dropped.

Brownfields Redevelopment. Helped secure $250,000 for the City of Parchment, Michigan for the Parchment Brownfield Redevelopment Project.

Smart Growth Task Force. As co-chairman of the Senate Smart Growth Task Force, organized briefings for Senators and staff to

educate them about smart growth issues and legislation. Senator Levin cosponsored legislation with Smart Growth Task Force co-chairman Senator Jim Jeffords, I-Vt., to address smart growth issues.

Sewer legislation. Secured Senate passage of an amendment that would have reauthorized the Wet Weather Quality Act grant program, which provides funding to communities and states for sewer projects.

Sewer Funding. Worked to secure funding for Michigan communities to pay for necessary improvements to municipal sewer systems in order to prevent discharges into our rivers, lakes and streams, including $800,000 for Genesee County; $200,000 for the Negaunee sewer project; $388,000 for the Twelve Towns drain retention project; $1,000,000 for the Oakland County Drain Commission for water and sewerage infrastructure management and planning; $200,000 to the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe of Michigan for the Saginaw Chippewa Water Main Extension Project; $300,000 to the City of Negaunee for wastewater infrastructure improvements; $725,000 for Genesee County Drain Commission for the NorthEast Relief Sewer and Kearsley Creek Interceptor project; $400,000 to the City of Detroit for wastewater infrastructure improvements at the Belle Isle Sewerage Pumping Station and Combined Sewer Overflow Facility; $750,000 to the City of Grand Rapids for combined sewer overflow infrastructure improvements; $1,000,000 to Wayne County for continuation of the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project; $1,375,000 for the Evergreen-Farmington Demonstration Project in Oakland County; $1,000,000 for the City of Benton Harbor for water infrastructure improvements; $400,000 for Crystal Falls Township for water infrastructure improvements; $1,000,000 for the City of Saginaw for sewer infrastructure improvements.

Detroit Revitalization. Helped secure $250,000 for the Detroit Riverfront revitalization project; $100,000 for the Detroit River Masterplan; $150,000 for Detroit River Seawalls; and $100,000 for Detroit River navigation improvements.

Focusing on Education

Mayor's Time Public Safety and Public Service Academies. Helped secure $250,000 for the City of Detroit to establish Mayor's Time Public Safety and Public Service academies. The academies will expose high school students in Detroit to career opportunities in public safety and public service.

Ferris State University. Helped secure $300,000 for Ferris State University in Big Rapids to update equipment, to assist with staffing, and to expand nationwide outreach for recruiting, articulation and continuing education.

Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services. Helped secure $100,000 for the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services (ACCESS) in Dearborn for exhibits and museum

programs.

Michigan Space and Science Center. Helped secure $350,000 for the Michigan Space and Science Center in Jackson for development of a strategic plan and to assist with operational costs and personnel.

Infant Mortality: Helped secure $200,000 for Wayne County for an infant mortality prevention, education and outreach project.

L.E.A.D.E.R.S program: Helped secure $150,000 for a character education program in Rochester Hills.

Schoolcraft College. Helped secure funding for Schoolcraft College in Livonia: $250,000 for the Pipeline to Science and Math Program and $350,000 for student support systems, equipment, faculty development and curriculum.

Michigan Jewish Institute. Helped secure $500,000 for the Michigan Jewish Institute in Oak Park for a cooperative computing program.

Michigan Virtual University/High School. Helped secure $100,000 for the continued development of the virtual Mathematics, Science and Technology Academy in Lansing.

Grand Valley State University. Helped secure $50,000 for a Teacher Academy program at Grand Valley State University in Allendale to address the unique needs of and demand for teachers in urban districts.

West Bloomfield Chaldean Education Training. Helped secure $100,000 for teacher training programs regarding Chaldean language, history, and culture.

Lansing Public Schools. Helped secure $198,000 to implement the Help One Student to Succeed (HOSTS) reading-centered school program.

Recognizing Achievement, Rewarding Excellence Foundation. Helped secure $225,000 for student leadership services in Troy.

ART of Leadership Foundation. Helped secure $175,000 for curriculum development and training in Birmingham.

Post Secondary Education. Authored legislation with Senator Jim Jeffords, I-Vt., that would give welfare recipients the opportunity to pursue two years of post-secondary education, including community college, in an effort to boost their earning potential and ensure that they will not return to the welfare rolls. The Levin-Jeffords proposal was included in the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families reauthorization bill, which was approved by the Senate Finance Committee but was not considered by the full Senate in 2003.

Targeting Terrorism

Targeting Terrorism

Canadian Trash Imports: Senator Levin was successful in passing legislation out of the Governmental Affairs Committee that would stop the importation of Canadian waste until the Secretary of Homeland Security certifies that the methodologies and technologies used to screen municipal solid waste imported into the United States for the presence of chemical, nuclear, biological, and radiological weapons are as effective as those used to screen for such materials in other items of commerce entering the United States by commercial vehicle. The full Senate did not consider the bill in 2003.

Communications Equipment for First Responders: Assisted Monroe County in obtaining a $6 million interoperability grant.

Promoting Homeland Defense. Worked to promote the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center and Camp Grayling as a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Training Center for first responders. To support this effort, DOD Deputy Secretary Paul McHale traveled to Michigan meet with Governor Granholm and to tour the facility. Levin also supported efforts to make Selfridge Air National Guard Base the regional DHS headquarters

Mustard Gas Antidote Research. Secured $4.5 million to fund ongoing research on mitigating the effects of mustard gas, one of the first chemical gases used as a weapon. This research is being conducted in part by faculty at the University of Michigan.

Handheld Device for the Detection of Biological Agents in Water. Secured $2.4 million in funding to develop a hand-held water quality sensing device that will aid in the detection of chemical, biological and pollutant agents in drinking water. When completed, this project will enable the military and public health officials to conduct real-time monitoring of water quality. Funds from this program will be used by the U.S. Army's Tank Automotive Research Development and Engineering Center (TARDEC) located in Warren, Michigan.

Portable Chemical-Biological Agent Detection System. Secured $2.1 million for the development of a portable chemical-biological agent detection system that will be able to analyze the presence of such contaminants. Handylabs of Ann Arbor will work with the U.S. Army to develop this product.

Keeping America Strong

Concurrent Receipt.

- Helped enact provision phasing in full concurrent receipt of military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation for all retirees with disability ratings of 50 percent or greater, despite a veto threat from the Bush Administration.
- Original cosponsor of bill which would permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both military retired pay by reason of their years of military service and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability.

TRICARE for Reserves. Helped enact provision establishing enhanced access to health care for members of the Guard and Reserve and their families despite a veto threat from the Administration. Increased benefits include: (1) TRICARE coverage that begins upon notification that a member of a Reserve component has been activated; (2) TRICARE coverage that extends 6 months after release from active duty; and (3) extended TRICARE benefits on a cost-share basis for members of the Reserve components and their families who do not have access to other health insurance coverage.

Military Pay. Helped enact an across-the-board pay raise of 3.7 percent, with targeted pay raises for mid-career personnel that raised the average increase to 4.15 percent. Helped enact provisions that extend increased imminent danger pay and family separation allowances; authorize a high-tempo allowance of up to $1000 per month for active and reserve personnel who experience unusually high deployment tempo; and double the death benefit to $12,000.

Increased End Strength. Helped enact a provision increasing authorized active duty end strength for the Army by 2,400 to help address strains caused by extended deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Citizenship for Soldiers. Helped enact a provision expediting naturalization of lawful permanent residents serving in the military and their families.

Supplemental Funding for Reconstruction of Iraq. Supported efforts to require Iraq to use some of its own oil resources to finance reconstruction efforts. This approach would have fully funded the continued American military presence in Iraq, but would have required Iraq to obtain loans, using future oil revenues as collateral, to finance reconstruction efforts. This approach was not approved by the Senate.

Nuclear Weapons. Led effort to prevent precipitous action to develop new nuclear weapons by modifying administration proposals to repeal the current ban on research, development and production of low-yield nuclear weapons and to develop a new robust nuclear earth penetrator. Successfully modified administration proposals to require specific congressional authorization for any effort extending beyond research to the development or production of new nuclear weapons.

Missile Defense Testing. Led effort to block an administration proposal that would have exempted missile defense programs from testing requirements applicable to other major defense programs.

Defense Against Chemical and Biological Weapons. Helped enact provision funding 12 additional National Guard teams to help respond to the threat of weapons of mass destruction inside the United States, bringing the Department of Defense closer to the goal of having at least one such team in each state or territory.

Acquisition Reform. Helped enact provisions requiring the use of competitive processes in contracts for the reconstruction of Iraq. Helped

block House efforts to roll back acquisition safeguards and reduce the size of the workforce responsible for overseeing defense contractors and preventing abuses.

NATO Enlargement. Supported the ratification of the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia and successfully cosponsored an amendment in the form of an additional declaration requiring the President to place on the agenda of the North Atlantic Council a discussion of the NATO “consensus rule” and the merits of establishing a process for suspending the membership in NATO of a country that no longer complies with the NATO principles of democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law.

Iraq Inquiry. Initiated an Armed Services Committee Democratic Staff inquiry into the objectivity and accuracy of pre-war intelligence on Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, alleged links to the al Qaeda terrorist organization, and public statements relative thereto.

Preventing the Closure of Michigan Veterans Facilities. Original cosponsor of a bill which would stop the Department of Veterans Affairs from closing or realigning the Aleda E. Lutz Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Saginaw.

Veterans Affairs. Original cosponsor of a Senate resolution designating the week of November 9 through November 15, 2003, as "National Veterans Awareness Week" to emphasize the need to develop educational programs regarding the contributions of veterans to the country.

Advanced Vehicle Technology.

- Secured $8.4 million for base funding for the 21st Century Truck program of the National Automotive Center. The 21st Century Truck program offers the potential to reduce dramatically the fuel use and emissions of medium and heavy trucks and will accelerate development and fielding of advanced, state-of-the-art information and mobility technologies into the military’s land warfare systems.
- Secured $4.5 million for the Improved Materials and Powertrain Architectures for 21st Century Trucks program to develop advanced lightweight materials, advanced manufacturing processes, and advanced design architecture that will lead to a reduction in vehicle weight and cost, corrosion control and vehicle shape optimization for military vehicles.
- Secured $3.5 million for the National Automotive Center Standardized Exchange of Product Data program to develop technology to reduce the costs of maintaining the Army’s existing combat and combat support vehicles through computerized management of product data required for component fabrication.
- Secured $2.1 million for an advanced engineering and manufacturing program to promote the introduction of advanced power technologies into military land warfare systems.
- Secured $2.1 million for the advanced collaborative environments program at the National Automotive Center to develop advanced modeling and simulation that can be used in system design and will reduce acquisition and design time for major systems.

Fuel Cell Initiatives.

- Secured $4.9 million for the vehicle fuel cell program initiated in fiscal year 2003 to bring a defense-wide focus to fuel cell activities throughout the military services and DOD and to focus specifically on vehicle technologies. The program includes continued development of vehicle propulsion technology and fuel cell auxiliary power units as well as pilot demonstration of such technologies. The program also includes development of technologies necessary for a hydrogen fuel infrastructure as well as research and development on reforming technologies that will allow use of JP-8 fuel in emerging fuel cell propulsion technologies.
- Secured $2.8 million for a new fuel cell test program at the National Automotive Center to accelerate the development, test and evaluation of alternative sources of on-board hydrogen generation for fuel cells in both tactical and non-tactical military ground vehicle systems.

Michigan Military Construction Projects. Led efforts to secure funding for the following military construction projects in Michigan:

- $9.6 million for the construction of a Joint Medical Training Facility at Selfridge Air National Guard Base.
- $8.5 million to replace the current Dining Facility at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center in Alpena. The current aging facility does not meet the needs of National Guard units that come to train at Alpena's many training facilities.
- $5.591 million for an Army National Guard Readiness Center in Jackson. This Readiness Center will replace a facility that was the state's first prison and home to the 1461 Transportation Company and the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment of the 107th Quartermaster Battalion. This new facility will provide the necessary administrative, training and storage areas required to fulfill their mission.
- $3.37 million for a Single Unit Armory in Calumet. The current Calumet Armory was constructed in 1918, and also serves as a community hockey rink. This project will enable Army Guard units stationed in Calumet to have a modern and secure facility in which to fulfill their missions.
- $3.508 for an Army National Guard Readiness Center in Shiawassee County. This center will replace an 88 year-old facility that has been described by the Michigan National Guard as an "overcrowded and substandard, aged facility" in Owosso.
- $1.114 million for upgrades to the Pontiac Readiness Center, an Army National Guard facility in Pontiac. These funds will be used for updating and renovating the facility.

Advanced Coatings Research. Helped secure $2 million in funds that will assist the Army Tank-automotive and Armaments Command's (TACOM) program studying advanced coatings which limit corrosion on military vehicles. Corrosion is one of the major factors in the deterioration of legacy weapons systems. Eastern Michigan University of Ypsilanti is a leader in developing solutions to address this problem.

Fastening and Joining Research. Secured $1 million in funds that will assist TACOM's efforts to conduct research into fastening and joining technology which is used in Army vehicles. This program would enable TACOM to pursue university partnerships to address the failure of fasteners, a cost on the Army's legacy systems.

Advanced Thermal Management System. Helped secure $3 million in funds that will enable Engineered Machined Products in Escanaba to continue its work in automotive thermal management that it has conducted with TACOM's National Automotive Center.

Rapid Prototyping. Secured $1.4 million in funding for this program that would enable TACOM and a university partner to work on developing the rapid prototyping of vehicle parts.

Low Temperature Research. Obtained $1.4 million for fundamental research on the effects of low temperature environments on the performance of Army vehicles and other military equipment. Wayne State University has been working with the Army for over 20 years in addressing these issues.

Software Modeling Research. Provided $1 million to develop tools to assist in the design of future Army tactical vehicles. ThermoAnalytics, Inc. of Calumet has been developing these new engineering design tools.

Lightweight Materials Development. Secured $1 million for research into Moldite, a lightweight, high-strength material that has been developed by Moldite Technologies of Fraser. Research into this material will seek to determine its utility in creating lightweight defense components.

Flexible Display Initiative. Provided $4 million for the Army's Flexible Display Initiative to develop lightweight, high definition, full color displays for soldiers and vehicles. Dow Corning in Midland is a major participant in this industry-wide technology development program.

Nanotechnology Research. $2.8 million was provided for research on nanotechnology to develop revolutionary miniaturized defense technologies. The Center for Nanomaterials Research at Michigan Technological University in Houghton partners with the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) on the development on molecular-sized electronic circuitry.

Dendrimer Nanotechnology Research. Secured $3 million for research into dendrimers for nanotechnology. This program will enable Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant to expand its nanotechnology research.

Robotic Navigation Tools. Secured $1.7 million for development of control, vision and navigation systems for future Army robotic ground vehicles. Soar Technologies in Ann Arbor is a world leader in this area of research and engineering.

Advanced Battery Development. Secured $1 million for the Soldier Mobility Program, which is a cooperative program between Energy Conversion Devices (ECD) and John Deere, to develop advanced batteries for the M-Gator, a soldier mobility vehicle developed by John Deere.

Copper Casting Technology. Secured $1 million for Copper Based

Casting Technology. This program will develop new casting technologies for high melting point copper and copper-based alloys. Extruded metals, Inc. of Belding, a member of the Copper Development Association, stands to benefit from this program.

Fuel Cell Technology Support Tool. Provided $1 million for a 12-screw ring extruder for fuel cell technology which Century 3+ L.L.C. of Traverse City has developed. This 12-screw ring extruder could increase the quality and speed in making plastic, and has been effective toward advancing the research and development of fuel cell technology. The 12-screw extruder greatly increases the efficiency of the system used to make the various plastic components of these fuel cells.

Procuring Michigan-made Items for our Nation's Defense. As the arsenal of democracy, Michigan provides many items that are used by our nation's military. Helped secure funding for the following items:

- $990 million for the Army's Stryker armored vehicle. General Dynamics Land Systems of Sterling Heights is the prime contractor for the Stryker armored vehicle.
- $97 million for the Marine Corps' Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle (AAAV). General Dynamics Land Systems of Sterling Heights is also the prime contractor for the AAAV.
- $85 million for U.S. Navy procurement of sonobuoys. Sparton Electronics of Jackson produces sonobuoys for anti-submarine warfare. Half the sonobuoys used by the U.S. Navy are produced by Sparton Corp.
- $12 million for the Army and the Air National Guard to purchase the Extended Cold Weather Clothing System (ECWCS), $1.4 million for the Marine Corps' Mountain/Cold Weather Clothing and Equipment Program (MCWCEP) and $3.15 million the Navy to purchase multi-climate protection clothing. These clothing systems include Polartec fleece products that are assembled by Peckham Vocational Industries in Lansing.
- $12 million for the Army's Modular Causeway System. Oldenburg Lakeshore, Inc. of Iron Mountain produces the system.
- $3 million for the Army's Abrams tank upgrade program. General Dynamics Land Systems of Sterling Heights is the prime contractor for the Abrams tank upgrade program.

Michigan Roads and Transport

Securing Transportation Equity for Michigan. Lead Democratic author of the Highway Funding Equity Act of 2003, which sought to address the inequity in the current distribution of highway funds by increasing states' minimum guaranteed highway funding to 95% of a state's share of contributions to the Highway Trust Fund in gas tax payments, up from 90.5%. Donor states like Michigan have historically sent more federal gasoline tax dollars to Washington than they receive back while subsidizing the road and bridge projects of other states.

Borders and Corridors. Authored legislation aimed at improving the transportation system for international and interstate commerce, including decreasing border crossing times and improving highway corridors that are important for trade. The bill would help to ease some of the delays at border crossings and road capacity that hurt industries that depend on just-in-time deliveries. The National Highway Borders

that depend on just-in-time deliveries. The National Highway Borders and Trade Act of 2003 sought to address the growth in international trade and highway traffic by authorizing $400 million a year for six years for programs to ease congestion at border crossings and to improve highway corridors that connect to border regions. Although there are only 15 land border states, the goods that are shipped through those states eventually travel to every state in the country.

Fuel Economy Standards for New Vehicles. Successfully led the fight in the Senate to defeat legislative proposals containing overly stringent fuel economy standards that would have disadvantaged domestic automakers. Crafted an alternative that would have ensured that the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration take into consideration key factors when issuing any new fuel economy standards, such as the impact on U.S. employment and safety; technological feasibility; the cost and lead time necessary for new technologies; and the effect that near-term expenditures to meet increased fuel economy standards will have on the resources available to develop leap-ahead advanced technologies. The alternative also would have increased funding for research and development of advanced technology vehicles and required the federal government to purchase advanced technology vehicles for fleet use, so that the purchasing power of the federal government could be leveraged to provide a market for advanced technology.

Funding for New Buses and Transit Infrastructure in Michigan. Secured $2 million for a cooperative demonstration of fuel cell transit buses to be carried out by the University of Michigan, the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, and the Environmental Protection Agency's Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory in Ann Arbor. The project involves purchase and demonstration of fuel cell buses and operation of a hydrogen refueling station.

Funding for New Buses and Transit Infrastructure in Michigan. Helped secure $1 million for buses and bus facilities for transit authorities in smaller Michigan communities that did not receive specific grants. Helped secure additional bus and bus facility funding including: $2 million for the Blue Water Area Transportation Commission in Port Huron; $10.5 million for Detroit Department of Transportation; $1 million for Marquette County Transit Authority; $4.5 million for Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART) in Oakland County; $2.5 million for Capital Area Transportation Authority (CATA) in Lansing; $2.5 million for Mass Transportation Authority (MTA) in Flint; $1.25 million for Bay Area Transportation Authority in Traverse City; $2 million for Ann Arbor Fuel Cell Bus Demonstration and Testing Project at University of Michigan and Ann Arbor Transportation Authority; $750,000 for Ann Arbor Transportation Authority; $75,000 for County Connection L.L.C., in Midland County; $1 million for Saginaw Transit Authority Regional Services; $1.55 million for The Rapid in Grand Rapids; $1 million for Allegan County Transportation Services; $20,000 for Barry County Transit; $40,000 for Belding County; $80,000 for Berrien County Public Transportation; $675,000 for Cadillac/Wexford Transit Authority; $100,000 for Clare County Transit Corporation;

$40,000 for Clinton Transit; $200,000 for Harbor Transit; $600,000 for Holland Macatawa Area Express (MAX); $250,000 for Isabella County Transportation Commission; $75,000 for Kalamazoo County Human Services Care-A-Van; $1 million for Lake Erie Transit; $90,000 LETS Bus Replacement; $250,000 for Ludington Mass Transportation Authority; $30,000 for Manistee County Transportation, Inc.; $200,000 for Mecosta Osceola County Area Transit; $500,000 for Northern Michigan; $100,000 for Sanilac County; $40,000 for Shiawassee; $35,000 for St. Joseph County Transit; $18,000 for VanBuren Public Transit; $1.2 million for Grand Rapids/Kent County Jobs Access Reverse Commute program; $1.6 million for Detroit Job Access Reverse Commute Program; $750,000 for Job Access Reverse Commute Program; $150,000 for North Oakland Job Access Reverse Commute Program; and $750,000 for Detroit Center City Loop.

Airport Funding. $3 million for Oakland County Airport for design of crosswind runway, upgrade lighting, noise program; $1 million for Pellston Airport/Emmet County Regional Airport for new passenger terminal; $150,000 for Mount Pleasant Municipal Airport for planing for upgrades; $1 million for Chippewa County International Airport for new terminal; $3.5 million for Detroit Metro Wayne County Airport for various improvements; $6 million for Traverse City Airport for control tower; $1 million for Battle Creek/Kellogg Airport for control tower; and $2.5 million for Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport for control tower.

Other Transportation Related Funding for Michigan. $3 million for Great Lakes Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS); $600,000 for Grant Rapids ITS; $350,000 for Detroit Metro Airport ITS; $600,000 for Macomb County ITS; $1.75 million for Altarum Restricted Use technology study; $400,000 for Amber Alert multi-regional strategic plan; $1.2 million for Saginaw Chippewa Transportation Improvement project; $750,000 for I-96/Latson Road interchange; $800,000 for Belford Road in Holly; $2.5 million for I-96 at Beck Road and Wixom Road interchange reconstruction; $4.922 million in reprogrammed funds for the Detroit Riverfront Transportation Enhancement; $400,000 for Trenton Channel Bridge; $250,000 for Michigan Technological University Institute for Aggregate research; $200,000 for Ten Mile Road at Middlebelt intersection for safety; $750,000 for Tienken Road bridge over Paint Creek in Rochester Hills; $210,000 for Woodward Avenue livable community enhancements; $440,000 for Woodward Avenue developing the Byway story; and $25.387 million for Detroit Ambassador Bridge Border Station.

Automobile National Heritage Area. Helped obtain $600,000 for the Automobile National Heritage Area which interprets and preserves automotive history in Michigan. The funds will be used for exhibits and support.

Preserving Michigan's Agricultural Resources and Family Farms

Combating the Emerald Ash Borer. Helped lead efforts to obtain federal support for halting the spread of and eradicating the emerald

federal support for halting the spread of and eradicating the emerald ash borer. Led delegation efforts to obtain $14.6 million to combat the ash borer. Additionally, secured $1.5 million for the removal of trees killed by the ash borer; $200,00 for research into how to identify trees killed by the emerald ash borer; and $144,000 for research on the Asian longhorned beetle and the emerald ash borer. Also successfully fought a proposal that would have required states like Michigan to pay millions more to combat invasive species such as the emerald ash borer by revising the federal-state formula. Obtained report language requiring USDA to provide Congress with a plan for addressing the emerald ash borer.

Assistance for Michigan Apple Growers. Secured $9.7 million for the Tree Assistance program. This program provides 75 percent of the cost of replacing trees that were damaged or lost due to natural disasters and has been helpful in assisting Michigan farmers whose trees have been killed by disease or weather related disasters. Helped secure $495,000 to support research on protecting future crops from fireblight, a bacterium that can kill apple trees.

Assistance to Michigan Cherry Growers. Helped secure $143,000 for the Armillaria Task Force, a research project at Michigan State University. Armillaria is a disease that renders soil unable to sustain fruit trees that is found in stone fruit regions worldwide, but losses are greatest in North America. There is no known method to control the disease.

Eradicating Bovine Tuberculosis in Michigan. Helped win approval for $14.925 million for bovine tuberculosis (TB) eradication efforts in Michigan and Texas and $311,000 for bovine TB research at Michigan State University.

Other Agricultural Projects. Levin helped secure the following:

- $6.1 million for a USDA Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES) project to develop advanced technologies for hardwood utilization. Michigan State University (MSU) is one of the institutions participating in this multi-state research consortium.
- $213,000 for a USDA CSREES project to develop improved fruit practices at MSU.
- $384,000 for a USDA CSREES project regarding sustainable agriculture research at MSU.
- $562,000 for a USDA CSREES project at the Michigan Biotechnology Consortium researching the development of new uses for agricultural products.
- $1.417 million for a USDA CSREES grant to fund potato research. MSU is one of the institutions participating in this multi-state research program.
- $1.1 million for a USDA CSREES grant to fund research into the pasteurization of eggs at the Michigan Research Institute.

Marek's Disease. Secured $270,000 for research on Marek's Disease, which kills poultry. The research will be conducted at a USDA facility in East Lansing.

Fighting for Consumers and Promoting Corporate Responsibility

Responsibility

Investigating Oil and Energy Prices. In March 2003, Senator Levin issued a detailed report through the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations on how recent changes in the Department of Energy's (DOE) program to fill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) have increased the cost of oil and reduced the supply of oil in the commercial sector. In October, the Senate unanimously accepted an amendment authored by Senator Levin to require DOE to consider the price and supply of oil when acquiring oil for the SPR. This amendment would have lowered the cost of oil and petroleum products such as gasoline, diesel fuel, and heating oil for both consumers and business. The provision has not been enacted into law, and DOE continues to follow a cost-blind approach to filling the SPR, harming consumers and businesses.

Senator Levin's investigation into the gasoline and oil markets show how energy companies can exploit the loopholes in the regulation of the energy markets that Enron and other companies helped create, thereby increasing energy prices at the consumer's expense. In 2003 Senator Levin helped write and co-sponsored legislation to close the "Enron loophole," but the energy companies opposed these changes and the amendment did not pass the Senate.

Strengthening SEC Civil Enforcement. Authored legislation that passed the Senate in April 2003, as part of the CARE Act, to strengthen the SEC's authority to detect, investigate, and punish violation of federal securities laws. The legislation would grant the SEC new administrative authority to impose civil monetary fines on any person who violates the securities laws, not just broker-dealers or investment advisers now subject to civil fines, but also, for example, publicly traded corporations, officers, directors, lawyers, and auditors. The SEC would also be authorized to impose larger penalty amounts, and its subpoena authority would be brought into line with federal banking agencies.

Combating Energy Fraud and Price Manipulation. Helped author and cosponsor bipartisan legislation to strengthen transparency and federal enforcement efforts in energy markets to stop fraud and price manipulation, including by eliminating the "Enron loophole" exempting many energy-related transactions from federal oversight and anti-fraud and anti-manipulation laws. The legislation is based, in part, on lessons learned from Enron's manipulation of energy markets and, in part, on a Levin report issued in March 2003 detailing significant problems in crude oil markets, including possible crude oil price manipulations leading to higher prices for key products like gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, and home heating oil. In November 2003, the energy market oversight legislation was brought before the full Senate, but due to opposition from some energy and financial services companies, failed to pass on a recorded vote of 41-56.

Exposing Abusive Tax Shelters. Led a year-long investigation into abusive tax shelters being designed and mass marketed by accounting firms, banks, lawyers, and investment advisors in exchange for millions of dollars in fees. In November, Senator Levin issued a 125-page report

of dollars in fees. In November, Senator Levin issued a 225-page report and led two days of hearings detailing abuses and explaining how illegal tax shelters deprive the U.S. Treasury of billions of dollars in lost tax revenues, leaving average taxpayers to make up the difference. In October, Senator Levin introduced legislation cosponsored by Senator McCain to stop accounting firms from selling tax shelters to the companies they audit due to the conflicts of interest involved. Senator Levin also announced plans to introduce additional legislation to increase the penalties on tax shelter promoters.

Fighting to Close Tax Haven Loopholes. Won Senate adoption of a Levin-Reid amendment to the Homeland Security appropriations bill to prohibit awarding FY 2004 contracts to companies that previously re-incorporated on paper from the United States to a tax haven to avoid paying U.S. taxes. By opening shell headquarters in a tax haven, companies that got their start in this country, do most of their work here, and benefit from U.S. infrastructure, banks, patents, fair trade laws, an educated workforce, and more, take advantage of what the U.S. offers without contributing their fair share of taxes, leaving average taxpayers to make up the difference. Unfortunately, the Levin-Reid amendment disqualifying these companies from Homeland Security contracts was dropped from the final bill. Earlier in the year, the Senate also accepted by voice vote a Levin amendment to the FY2004 budget resolution, S.Con.Res. 23, to eliminate tax loopholes that allow the same companies, as well as certain insurance companies operating in tax havens, to avoid paying more than $4 billion in taxes over ten years and use the resulting revenues for education. The Levin provision closing these tax loopholes was not included in the final budget resolution.

Preventing Future Corporate Misconduct. Fought for strong rules and regulations implementing the new corporate reform law, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. Among other measures, Senator Levin supported proposals, which were later issued as final rules, to strengthen auditor independence, reform accounting rules for special purpose entities, strengthen oversight of foreign auditors that audit U.S. corporations, and strengthen disclosure of how mutual funds vote on shareholder proposals. Senator Levin also organized a letter signed by 30 Members of Congress supporting reform of accounting rules for stock options, so that stock option compensation is treated as an expense on corporate financial statements.

Reforming Government

Whistleblower Protection Act. Sponsored the Federal Employee Protection of Disclosures Act with Senators Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, and Charles Grassley, R-Iowa. This bipartisan bill would amend the Whistleblower Protection Act to strengthen protections for federal employees who blow the whistle on government fraud, waste and abuse in federal government agencies and programs. These federal workers take great risks and often face enormous obstacles in doing what they believe is right. The Governmental Affairs Committee held a hearing on the legislation in November 2003.

DOD Personnel Reform. Led effort to build appropriate safeguards into

DOD Personnel Reform. Led effort to build appropriate safeguards into the new Department of Defense personnel system. Successfully modified Administration proposal to preserve the right of individual employees to appeal adverse personnel actions to the Merit Systems Protection Board and, if necessary, the courts; provide for independent, third-party review of collective bargaining issues; ensure that the new personnel system cannot be used as a basis for reducing the amount of money allocated to civilian pay accounts; and provide specific guidance and direction on the implementation of a pay-for-performance system.