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# LARRY CRAIG

NEWS RELEASE

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## **CRAIG SECURES ADDITIONAL \$3 MILLION FOR 2009 SPECIAL OLYMPICS WORLD WINTER GAMES IN IDAHO**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Idaho Senator Larry Craig today secured \$3 million for the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games to be held in Boise, Idaho, next February.

The funding was included in the Fiscal Year 2009 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill. When combined with the \$8 million in federal funding that was secured last year by Senator Craig and Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson, the federal investment in the Idaho Games is \$11 million, a total in line with amounts received by other States hosting Special Olympics in previous years.

“As the honorary Chairman of the 2009 World Winter Special Olympic Games, I am extremely pleased that I’ve been able to convince the Senate to add an additional \$3 million for this important event,” Craig said. “This will take us a long way toward helping the Special Olympics, but it does not stop the very real need for private contributions and private citizen involvement.”

“This will be a tremendous event for Idaho and the nation,” Craig said. “I’m glad my Senate colleagues agree. I continue to urge Idahoans to become involved – to give their money, their time, and maybe even some of their housing to help all of those who will be in Idaho and in the Boise area next winter.”

According to the organizers of the Games, holding the event in Idaho will require at least \$28 million in total contributions, with the federal government’s share representing just a portion of the total needs. The event will attract more than 3,000 athletes from over 100 nations to compete in seven Winter Olympic-type sporting events. It will be the largest multi-sport event ever held in the state of Idaho.

In addition to the Idaho Special Olympics funding, the Senate Appropriations Committee, of which Senator Craig is a member, also approved several Idaho initiatives advocated by Senator Craig, including:

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- \$200,000 for nursing equipment at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa;
- \$100,000 for equipment to expand education programs at Kootenai County Boys and Girls Club; and
- \$100,000 for the Children’s Home Society of Boise to improve long-term care for foster children.

The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill will now go to the full Senate for approval.