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LARRY CRAIG

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NEWS RELEASE

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CRAIG SECURES FUNDING TO REPLACE CENTER AT MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE *- also secures funding for Idaho Ag Projects -*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The full Senate Appropriations Committee unanimously approved today its fiscal year 2009 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill, which included \$1.8 million for the designing of a new Logistics Readiness Center at Mountain Home Air Force Base.

Idaho Senator Larry Craig applauded the Committee's actions, **"I have been assured by the U.S. Air Force that this project is moving forward, and I am pleased that the Committee sees the value in the safety of our soldiers. The old Center is unsafe and unusable for many of the purposes it was built for, and it needs to be replaced. Our soldiers deserve only the best, and that certainly includes making sure they are not working in dangerous environments while at home."**

At a hearing by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies in May, Senator Craig called attention to the dire conditions of the Base's Logistics Readiness Center, which was condemned in the late 1990s. Craig received a commitment from a representative from the U.S. Air Force that the Mountain Home AFB project was one of its top priorities. The construction of the new Center is estimated to cost \$20 million.

The full Senate Appropriations Committee today also approved the fiscal year 2009 Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Included in the bill are more than \$19 million in projects important to Idaho, including agriculture research programs and rural infrastructure. The bill also includes funding for food safety, nutrition assistance and global food aid.

"Idaho and the rest of our nation's farmers have a history of innovation in agriculture," Craig, a member of the Appropriations Committee and its Agriculture Subcommittee, said. **"This funding will enable us to maintain the health and vitality of both that industry and our rural communities, while helping feed America's families and the rest of the world."**

The following research and infrastructure projects and specific funding levels were included in the bill:

- Potato Cyst Nematode Eradication (\$7.7 million)
- Potato Cyst Nematode Research, UI (\$372,000)
- Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station, UI (\$695,000)
- Barley for Rural Development, Idaho and Mont. (\$547,000)
- Increasing Shelf Life of Agricultural Commodities, UI (\$642,000)
- Alternative Crops – Canola Research (\$819,000)
- Cool Season Legume Research, Idaho, Wash. and N.D. (\$250,000)

- Grass Seed Cropping for Sustainable Agriculture, Idaho, Wash. and Ore. (\$150,000)
- Potato Research – Idaho, Ore., Wash., and Maine (\$750,000)
- Small Fruit Research – Idaho, Wash., and Ore. (300,000)
- Nez Perce Bio-Control Center (\$187,000)
- Wood Utilization Research – 11 States (\$4.841 million)
- Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee (\$692,000)
- Tri-State Predator Control - Idaho, Mont., and Wyo. (\$986,000)
- Little Wood River Irrigation District Gravity Pressure System (\$143,000)

The full Senate Appropriations Committee also approved the fiscal year 2009 Department of State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, which funds vital State Department activities.

The bills now move to the full Senate for consideration and approval.