

LARSON ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR BUSHNELL AND TEMPLE STREET PROJECT

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LARSON ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR BUSHNELL AND TEMPLE STREET PROJECT WASHINGTON, D.C.— U.S. Congressman John B. Larson (CT-01) today announced that the House of Representatives has approved the Conference Report for the Veterans Administration and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, HR 4635, by a vote of 386-24. Larson voted in favor of the conference report, which includes \$75,000 in funding for Temple Street in Hartford as well as \$500,000 for the Bushnell theatre. The report provides a total of \$82.5 billion in total spending, which is \$2.3 billion less than the administration requested, but \$4.2 billion more than was included in the version the House originally passed. The Senate approved the Conference Report as well today by a vote of 85 – 8 and it will now go to the President who is expected to sign it into law.

"The funding provided for the Bushnell will go a long way to enhancing the educational and cultural resources and experiences that the Bushnell offers to the people of Connecticut," said Larson. "It will also expand economic development in the city by creating hundreds of jobs for Hartford during the construction phase, as well as additional jobs for the theatre. The renovation and revitalization will also help create a focal point for entrepreneurial expansion in the form of restaurants, shops, hotels, transportation, and other businesses in the area."

"I am also pleased that this preliminary step has been taken to assist the City in their effort to re-open Temple Street," said Larson. "This is an extremely worthwhile project that has the potential to reinvigorate the area, which will one day serve as a model for other cities and communities by breathing life back into the area with investment, housing and retail opportunities. And while I'm disappointed that the funding is lower than we would have hoped, I look forward to continuing the effort to fund this project. Senators Dodd and Lieberman should also be applauded for their strong efforts on behalf of the City."

U.S. Senator Joseph I. Lieberman also voiced his support for the funding.

"Bushnell Theater is a valuable cultural and artistic resource for Connecticut," Lieberman said. "I'm delighted that my colleagues in Congress are providing this funding to assist in the theater's renovation and expansion, so that more people can have the opportunity to experience all the Bushnell has to offer."

In March, Larson co-signed a letter, along with the other members of the Connecticut House delegation, to Rep. James Walsh, (R-NY), the Chairman of the VA/HUD Appropriations Subcommittee in support of funding for the Bushnell. Later that same month, Larson authored a letter in strong support of funding for Temple Street, also to Rep. Walsh, writing that the project is essential to the redevelopment and revitalization of the city.

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