

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

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US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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Spratt Helps to Secure \$1 Million for Arcade-Westside

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced that he helped to secure \$1 million in federal funds for the Arcade-Westside restoration project in Rock Hill. The money is included in the Omnibus Appropriations Act, which passed the House today.

Spratt said the funds will be used to replace water and sewer lines and make other improvements in the neighborhood.

Four Arcade-Westside textile mills closed in the past 15 years, leaving behind 2,500 residents, many of whom looked to the mills for employment. An estimated 21 percent of residents have incomes below the poverty level. A panel led by the Environmental Protection Agency has deemed the Arcade-Westside area one of 15 projects nationwide in need of revitalization.

“This area has sidewalks and grass and hardwood trees, and lying at the core of the city it has clear potential,” said Spratt.

The city envisions a thriving urban community, with renovated low-to-moderate income housing, businesses, new recreational and community facilities, and some day, a light rail transportation system connecting to Charlotte.

“This money is another installment in the city’s plans to revitalize the Arcade-Westside area and make it more livable and productive,” said Spratt.

Earlier this year, Spratt asked the Appropriations Committee to provide funding to improve the area’s water-sewer systems. He credited U.S. Sen. Ernest F. Hollings (D-SC) with spearheading the effort and making sure the funding remained intact throughout the appropriations process.

Spratt said the Senate may not take up the Omnibus Appropriations Act until mid-January. “Until the omnibus bill passes the Senate, and the President signs it, provisions of this kind are still in play,” said Spratt. “But Senator Hollings has been an enormous help in the Senate, and with his help, we are optimistic that it will pass.”

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