

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

Assistant to the Democratic Leader

Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget

US House of Representatives – Washington, DC

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### **Spratt Obtains \$1.25 million for Kershaw County Wastewater Projects**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that he has obtained \$1.25 million to improve wastewater infrastructure in Kershaw County. The money was included in the Omnibus Appropriations Act passed by the House on November 20. The president is expected to sign the bill soon.

\$250,000 of the \$1.25 million was set aside for improvements to the Kershaw County Wastewater Treatment Plant.

“Kershaw County’s close proximity to the Columbia metropolitan area is fueling rapid growth, especially in the western part of the county,” said Spratt. “I expect this growth to continue into the foreseeable future as long as there is continued availability of essential infrastructure, such as adequate wastewater treatment facilities.”

However, according to the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control’s (DHEC) “CheckBook” for permitted flow, the flow allocated to the Kershaw County Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) is 99 percent of its capacity. This leaves the County essentially no reserve capacity to offer to developers or to industries wishing to expand. In addition, the existing treatment facility has limited ability to effectively treat increased quantities of industrial type wastewater.

“Both insufficient flow capacity and treatment capability have the potential to significantly retard growth in the county,” said Spratt. “Expansion and renovation of the existing wastewater treatment plant is sorely needed.”

With the \$250,000, Kershaw County proposes to expand its existing wastewater treatment plant from a capacity of 0.72 million gallons per day to 1.25 million gallons per day. It will also renovate the plant, including installing equipment to remove phosphorus from the water in accordance with DHEC’s requirements.

The remaining \$1,000,000 obtained will be used to install a new sewer trunk line from existing service north of the Town of Elgin to the Exit 87 interchange on I-20. This is the

second phase of a broader Kershaw County effort to build several industrial parks in the county. Spratt secured \$250,000 for the first phase last year.

“Although Kershaw County is designated as a moderately developed county according to the South Carolina Department of Commerce, the per capita income has been declining and unemployment is 8.4%,” noted Spratt. “The County government has an aggressive economic development program, but the economic downturn and September 11<sup>th</sup> have resulted in major cutbacks in companies like DuPont and the closure of major employers such as Wateree Textiles and Howden Buffalo. The industrial development that this wastewater project allows is vital to put Kershaw County’s economy back on track and its people back to work.”

Engineering design for the project is already 95% complete, thanks to \$100,000 in investments from the Town of Elgin and Kershaw County. Kershaw County has pledged to commit substantial resources to the effort to supplement the \$1 million in federal money.

“It is my hope that federal money will again serve as seed money to leverage additional state, local, and private investment in the project,” said Spratt. “I am glad to be able to play a role in such an important effort.”

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