
U.S. Representative

John Spratt

South Carolina # 5th District

News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Spratt Announces Start-up Funds for New Correctional Facility

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that Congress has approved \$5.43 million in initial funding for a new federal correctional facility in Bennettsville.

“This funding nails down a project that Senator Hollings and I have long advocated for Marlboro County,” said Spratt. “While this is only initial funding, it means that this new facility will become a reality, and that means good jobs for the citizens of this area.”

The new 1152-bed medium-security correctional facility will be located on 411 acres of land on S.C. Highway 9 across from the Evans Correctional Institution. Construction will take from three to five years and cost an estimated \$111 million. When completed, the new facility will employ at least 250 people and have an annual operating budget of \$25 million.

Spratt said he was pleased to see the initial funding approved last week by Congress, and credited Senator Hollings for his staunch support.

“When everyone met at the Marlboro Civic Center last year to urge the Federal Bureau of Prisons to come here, competing sites were under consideration,” said Spratt. “And though I thought the Bennettsville site was ideal, it was not a sure bet by any means.”

In his statement of support, Spratt described the Bennettsville site as being “as close to perfect as the Bureau of Prisons could hope to find. It is the right size — 411 acres of usable land, held by one owner who is willing to sell. It has ideal topography, level with good soil and drainage, and it is ‘ideal environmentally,’ with no wetlands, endangered species, toxins, or other problems.” In addition, Spratt said, the location across from Evans is “excellent,” with good water, sewer, gas, and electric service, and a hospital nearby. Furthermore, the site is far enough inland to be buffered from costal storms and hurricanes.

“The Bennettsville site,” said Spratt, “is a natural fit and a logical choice. I am glad to see the choice made and the funding provided, and I look forward to seeing the project get underway.”

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