



Office of Representative Heath Shuler

Representing North Carolina's Eleventh Congressional District

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Rep. Shuler Votes for Strong Environmental Protections and Crucial National Parks Maintenance

Washington, D.C. – Representative Heath Shuler voted to implement strong environmental protections and to supply crucial funding for National Parks maintenance needs as the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2643, the Interior and Environment Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2008.

“Congress has a moral obligation to protect our environment and natural resources for future generations,” said Rep. Shuler. “This bill provides needed funding for clean water, for our National Parks, and for addressing the growing threat of global warming.”

The Interior and Environment Appropriations bill includes new resources and support for environmental and conservation programs including:

- Funding for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, which supports projects that improve drinking water quality in communities across America
- Sewer and Water Grants to support the construction and improvement of water systems in local communities
- New resources for the Superfund hazardous waste clean-up program.
- Boosts federal investment in climate change research at Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Interior Department by 53%

The National Park Service was appropriated \$2.5 billion, a 10% increase in funding over previous levels. \$2 billion of the funding is to be used for operations and maintenance.

“After years of severe underfunding, our National Parks are facing tremendous maintenance backlogs. This appropriations bill begins to reverse that course so that future generations will be able to enjoy the full natural beauty and wonder of these lands,” Rep. Shuler continued. “This bill also will protect the health of our National Parks and Forests by improving wildlife and vegetation management and strongly investing in wildfire suppression.”

The bill also maintains moratoriums on offshore drilling for oil and natural gas in the Outer Continental Shelf and prohibits the Interior Department from issuing new leases for offshore natural gas development. Rep. Shuler opposed amendments introduced to the bill to do away with these important provisions. The amendments were defeated and the protections remained.

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