



## Congressman Bud Cramer

July 2007 E-Newsletter

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This month, we celebrated National Alabama coming to the Shoals. This outstanding company will employ 1,800 people at their new freight car manufacturing plant. I applaud the efforts of state and local leaders in winning this nationwide competition for National Alabama. This announcement shows what North Alabama can accomplish when we work together.

*Bud Cramer*

### News From Washington

This month, the House approved the 2007 Farm bill. This legislation reauthorizes, extends, and reforms federal agriculture support programs including the counter-cyclical and direct payment programs for commodities. This bill also provides conservation assistance, and funding for rural development and child nutrition programs. [\[more\]](#)

During consideration of the Farm bill, Representative Cramer led efforts to protect North Alabama farmers from amendments that would have reduced support for cotton farmers, and would have undermined the safety net that protects farmers after disasters. **“We must continue these programs to ensure the success of American agriculture,” said Cramer after the House vote. “This year’s freeze and continuing drought across North Alabama clearly illustrate the need for an emergency safety net.”** [\[more\]](#)

Representative Cramer also testified this month before the House Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands in support of his legislation to declare the Muscle Shoals region a National Heritage Area. A National Heritage Area is an area that has a natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources that have had a significant influence on the history of the United States. **Cramer said, “I am proud of the region’s rich heritage and believe we must share this area’s story to future generations.”** [\[more\]](#)

### Appropriations Update

#### Approved this month by the Appropriations Committee:

*Defense* – Cramer, a member of this subcommittee announced that this bill provides \$8.6 billion for the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), including \$372.9 million for the Kinetic Energy Interceptor and \$274.3 million for the Multiple Kill Vehicle. This bill also puts in place a 3.5 percent pay raise for America’s military. [\[more\]](#)

*AG* – During consideration of this bill, Cramer received a commitment from Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee Chair Rosa DeLauro that she would work in the upcoming emergency supplemental bill to assist Alabama farmers suffering from exceptional drought. [\[more\]](#)

Cramer also included \$593,000 in this bill for Precision Agriculture at the Tennessee Valley Research Center in Belle Mina. In addition, Representative Cramer announced that this bill also provided \$52 million for the Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council. [\[more\]](#)

For a complete update on all of the Fiscal Year 2008 Appropriations bills, please visit Rep. Cramer’s Appropriations Status Update page on his website:

<http://cramer.house.gov/HoR/AL05/Issues/Bud+on+The+Issues/Appropriations+Status.htm>



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### More News From Washington

Representative Cramer also announced that the House approved legislation reauthorizing the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The bill authorizes a total of \$463 million through FY 2011 to assist the Appalachian region develop transportation infrastructure, water and sewer projects, as well as education, economic development, and job training initiatives. **“ARC has helped the area come together and enhance its economic vitality. I am pleased that my colleagues voted to extend the ARC,”** said Cramer. [\[more\]](#)

### News From the Fifth District

This month, Representative Cramer and Alabama Governor Bob Riley joined economic development leaders from Northwest Alabama to announce National Alabama Corporation will build a \$350 million facility at the Barton Riverfront Industrial Park in Colbert County. This facility will employ over 1,800 Shoals' workers. [\[more\]](#)

Representative Cramer also joined Alabama Senators Richard Shelby and Jeff Sessions, Representative Robert Aderholt (Ala-04), and North Alabama community officials and military leaders to celebrate the opening of the Von Braun II Complex. Representative Cramer and the Alabama delegation secured over \$44 million for construction of this facility, which will be used by the U.S. Missile Defense Agency (MDA). It is expected to hold over 950 MDA employees. [\[more\]](#)

**For More Information on These and Other News Items Please Visit:**  
<http://cramer.house.gov>

### Appropriations Update Continued

#### Approved this month by the House of Representatives:

*Commerce, Justice, Science* – This bill provides a total of \$17.6 billion for the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA). This amount is \$1.135 billion more than the current year's funding levels. [\[more\]](#)

This bill also includes a total of \$3.2 billion to assist state and local law enforcement, which is a ten percent increase over last year's funding. This amount included \$85 million to help local communities combat Meth production and distribution, a \$15 million increase. [\[more\]](#)

*Energy and Water* – Cramer included \$1 million for the University of North Alabama, \$900,000 in this bill to support flood control efforts and other improvements along Pinhook Creek in Huntsville, and \$500,000 for the Alabama A&M University Research Institute's Integrated Environment Research and Services program. [\[more\]](#)

*Transportation* - Cramer, a member of this Subcommittee, secured \$3.8 million for North Alabama projects in this bill, including funds for transportation infrastructure improvements, airport renovations, and community preservation efforts. [\[more\]](#)

*Labor, Health and Human Services* – Cramer included a total of \$825,000 for North Alabama projects, including the Hudson-Alpha Institute for Biotechnology, the University of North Alabama, Huntsville Hospital, the Limestone Community Care Medical Clinic, and the HEALS Dental Clinic. [\[more\]](#)