

U.S. House of Representatives

Congressman Sherwood Boehlert

New York's 24th District

Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Cortland, Herkimer, Oneida, Ontario, Otsego, Seneca, Tioga, Tompkins

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, June 07, 2006

BOEHLERT SECURES \$600,000 FOR LOCAL PROJECTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R-New Hartford) today announced that he has secured \$400,000 for redevelopment of the former Rome Cable facility in Rome and \$200,000 for renovation of the Children's Museum in Utica. The funds were included in a fiscal year 2007 spending bill approved by the House Committee on Appropriations late last evening.

"Once again, Mayor Brown and his team are putting their best foot forward," Boehlert said. "I toured the former Rome Cable site earlier this year, and was impressed with the comprehensive planning to redevelop the facility into a bustling center of economic activity. My hat goes off to Mayor Brown and the Rome Community Brownfield Redevelopment Corporation for their efforts to expand economic development opportunities and bring more jobs to the Mohawk Valley."

City of Rome Mayor James F. Brown said, "We are extremely pleased that Congressman Boehlert has been able to secure this grant. The work being done at the former Rome Cable site is extremely important to our economy and to the future of the City of Rome. We are encouraged that more work can be done at the former Rome Cable site to spur additional development, and look forward to working with our federal, state and local leaders to help make this happen."

\$400,000 for the Rome Community Brownfield Redevelopment Corporation will be used to undertake important structural, environmental, and safety improvements to the former Rome Cable complex, partially occupied by Owl Wire and Cable. Several areas of the roof are in need of repairs to stop water infiltration, which if left as is, will cause additional structural damage. In addition, the facility needs to be made more energy efficient.

"The Children's Museum is a tremendous educational asset for the youth of our area," Boehlert said. "Thanks to the tireless efforts of its ambitious director, Marlene Brown, the museum has undergone a major transformation, both in terms of its physical structure as well as its exhibits and educational offerings. The funding I was able to secure will help write the next chapter of the Children's Museum's ongoing success story. As Chairman of the Science Committee, I have also been able to contribute to the Museum's growth by securing an exciting array of new exhibits – some of which exists only in our museum here in Utica."

\$200,000 for renovation of the Children's Museum 4th floor "Transportation Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," which features NASA and Science exhibits. Funds will be used to renovate and upgrade the existing HVAC unit, flooring will be replaced with professional grade indoor-outdoor carpeting, walls will be insulated, and needed equipment will be purchased.

Boehlert has brought numerous NASA officials to Utica and the Children's Museum, including Administrator Sean O'Keefe and several astronauts, and Director of the Office of Science Dr. Raymond Orbach. During a visit in 2002, O'Keefe and Orbach adopted the museum on behalf of NASA and the OS and have provided a full array of new, interactive exhibits for the museum's 4th floor, which Boehlert helped renovate by securing federal funds for the museum.

Museum Executive Director Marlene Brown said, "We are delighted Congressman Boehlert has been able to secure this grant. His support gives us the incentive to continue growing CNY's premiere attraction for children, families, schools, and tourists. We thank him for his support over the years and look forward to continuing to build and enhance our Science & Technology Center and to finishing our 4th floor's Surround Sound Theatre & Mission Control Center."

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*Editor's note – for additional information regarding project specifics, contact Mark Kaucher at Rome Community Brownfield Redevelopment Corporation 315-337-6360 or Marlene Brown with the Children's Museum at 315-724-6129.