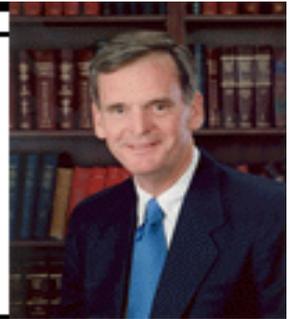


NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg



United States Senator for New Hampshire
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GREGG ANNOUNCES GRANITE STATE AIR QUALITY PROJECTS GET FINAL CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today announced that \$19.25 million in federal funding for air quality monitoring and research projects in New Hampshire are included in the Fiscal Year 2003 Omnibus Appropriations Conference Report that received final Congressional approval late last week. The measure is now at the White House awaiting the President's signature. Senator Gregg is currently working with his Senate colleagues on separate Clean Air legislation that will address the reduction of emissions from the four sources of pollution – sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, mercury, and carbon dioxide.

Senator Gregg stated, "It is critical that residents of New Hampshire have as accurate and timely forecasts about the quality of the air they will breathe on any given day as it is the weather they may encounter. For years the Northeast has borne the brunt of air pollution from the Midwest and as a result, it is vitally important as we work to stem the causes of this pollution that we learn where the toxins are coming from and how they are affecting our environment. These projects will allow people to make thoughtful and appropriate decisions about their outdoor activities while pinpointing exactly what changes need to be made to prevent such pollution in the future."

Included in this funding is \$1.75 million for the on-going New England Air Quality Study that brought the NOAA vessel *Ronald H. Brown* to visit the Seacoast Region last summer. The equipment aboard the vessel allows for marine mobility and brings cutting-edge resources to the study.

Dr. Donald Sundberg, Vice President for Research and Public Service at the University of New Hampshire, stated, "With the generous funding provided through Senator Gregg, UNH is becoming a national center for atmospheric research. This includes not only the development of new analytical instruments and an impressive air quality monitoring network, but also a key role in improving the quality of weather and air quality forecasts. It is great to see our faculty and students work on issues that are so important for our country."

For more information call Dr. Sundberg at (603) 862-1997.

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**New Hampshire Clean Air Projects
FY03 Omnibus Appropriations Conference Report
U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH)**

\$5 million – Atmospheric Investigations, Regional Monitoring, Analysis, and Prediction Program

AIRMAP is a cooperative program between the UNH and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration designed to provide a detailed understanding of various sources of pollution by studying the dynamics of New England's atmosphere, air quality and weather. The program combines NOAA's atmospheric research with UNH-led systematic monitoring of the region's atmospheric chemistry in order to develop the ability to predict air quality changes as an addition to daily weather forecasts. Increased funds will enable UNH to better partner with NOAA and others on a variety of new air quality programs.

Fiscal Year 2002 award – \$3 million, 2001 – \$2 million, 2000 – \$2 million, 1999 – \$2 million

\$3 million – NOAA Air Quality Forecasting Pilot Program

This air quality project will implement the first real-time numeric air quality forecasting system to warn people of the severity and the composition of hazardous air pollutants. Such forecasts will be invaluable to city planners, industrial polluters, and pollutant-sensitive individuals. This detailed and accurate air quality information will enable city planners to issue policies to encourage greater energy efficiency and a reduction in emissions during peak pollutant periods. Forecasts will also provide industrial polluters with the needed information about peak pollutant periods and predicted air flows to minimize the negative effects of their emissions.

Fiscal Year 2002 award – \$3 million

\$3 million – High Resolution Temperature Forecasting

This initiative will produce more accurate and localized predictions of the daily maximum and minimum temperatures, improving utility companies' ability to accurately project their electricity demand, and therefore reduce costs. With this funding, NOAA expects to make daily forecasts more accurate by two degrees by 2004, modernize 200 cooperative weather observing stations throughout New England, and begin using these high-resolution models at eight sites in New England by 2003. This project will utilize experimental high resolution operational numerical models and will deploy a network of meteorological sensors for data acquisition within the selected region. The synthesized forecasts are expected to be significantly superior to that achievable with current approaches.

Fiscal Year 2002 award – \$3 million

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\$1.75 million – New England Air Quality Study

Already in its second year, the program includes three comprehensive monitoring stations operating year round in Durham, Castle in the Clouds and on the Summit of Mount Washington. This series of stations will enable researchers to separate out pollutants from background levels of atmospheric components occurring naturally in the environment. By integrating weather patterns with atmospheric chemistry studies, researchers will be able to determine sources of pollution as diverse as the Asian mainland, northeastern U.S. vehicle traffic, and industrial sources from the Midwest and Canada. Some key areas of research include: the role of long range transport in shaping the regional and extra-regional air quality of New England, the role of naturally occurring emissions from regional forests in local and regional air quality, and analysis and quantification of the chemical reactions that are producing ozone and fine particles. New England will now become a test bed for national NOAA air quality efforts.

Fiscal Year 2002 award – \$1 million

\$4 million – GroundWinds LIDAR Program

The UNH GroundWinds project will continue to test and improve upon a ground-based LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) instrument designed to measure wind speed in areas previously unavailable, and will thus significantly improve weather prediction models.

Fiscal Year 2002 award – \$3 million, 2001 – \$2.5 million, 2000 – \$2.5 million, 1999 – \$2.5 million

\$2 million – Targeted Wind Sensing

To test, evaluate, and demonstrate platforms suitable for measuring wind speed, important to weather and air quality models, and invaluable to air turbulence prediction.

Fiscal Year 2002 award – \$1 million, 2001 – \$1 million, 2000 – \$1.5 million, 1999 – \$1.5 million

\$500,000 – Meteorological Equipment for Plymouth State College

To accompany the extensive renovations on Boyd Hall, PSC will use these resources to purchase state-of-the-art equipment for its meteorology department. Senator Gregg has worked for several years with the meteorology department at PSC to assist in the development of its program.

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