

Transportation/HUD Appropriations, Fiscal Year 2008

Amendment XXX – Prohibits \$450,000 in funding for the International Peace Garden in Dunseith, North Dakota.

S. 1789, the Fiscal Year 2008 appropriations bill for the Departments of Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD) and Related Agencies, includes a provision directing \$450,000 to renovate facilities at the International Peace Garden in Dunseith, ND.

While the International Peace Garden center may stand a symbol of the friendship between the United States and Canada and provide a welcoming source of entertainment for tourists, renovation is not essential, especially when it is estimated there are 700,000 homeless persons living in the U.S.¹

The purpose of this amendment is to eliminate \$450,000 for the International Peace Garden in the Fiscal Year 2008 Transportation and Housing and Urban Development (T-HUD) appropriations bill.

This amendment is about setting priorities.

According to HUD's website: "HUD's mission is to increase homeownership, support community development and increase access to affordable housing free from discrimination."

\$450,000 for facility renovations to the International Peace Garden does not appear to advance this mission.

Background and History of International Peace Garden

The International Peace Garden is a 2,339 acre botanical garden on the U.S. and Canadian borders of North Dakota and Manitoba, created in 1932 as a symbol of friendship between the two nations.

¹ "Study finds more than 700,000 homeless in the U.S." Reuters, February 28, 2007

According to the garden's website, "*Reflecting pools and dazzling colorful floral displays of over 150,000 flowers splash across the grounds of the Formal Garden's terraced walkways.*"² The Peace Garden also contains a 120-foot concrete Peace Tower, a Peace Chapel, seven Peace Poles, steel girders transported from the New York World Trade Center, buildings to accommodate conventions, bus tours, weddings, receptions and reunions, campgrounds, a gift shop, a museum, the Peace Garden Café, and an airport.

The Peace Garden has been expanded and sustained through funding from the United States and Canada, along with state funds, charitable contributions and tourism revenue. The garden generates about \$700,000 in annual revenue.³

According to Citizen's Against Government Waste, the garden received a \$200,000 earmark in the FY 2005 Department of the Interior appropriations bill.⁴



International Peace Garden

² <http://www.peacegarden.com/>

³ Associated Press. "Peace Garden Getting \$32M Makeover" May 28, 2007
<http://abcnews.go.com/US/WireStory?id=3218040&page=1>

⁴ http://www.cagw.org/site/PageServer?pagename=reports_pigbook2005_database



International Peace Garden

Need for renovations intentionally overstated to the media to “embarrass” government into more funding

According to a September 4 article in *The Globe and Mail* (a Canadian newspaper), International Peace Garden CEO Doug Hevenor has purposefully exaggerated deteriorating conditions of the garden in order to receive more government funding⁵:

Mr. Hevenor spent much of the past two years criticizing the Peace Garden in the press. The "disparaging campaign of 2005-2006" as he calls it, was a deliberate attempt to embarrass governments into giving more money, and it worked very well. Mr. Hevenor's complaints of rotting buildings and lack of funds resulted in 52 front-page stories in U.S. papers and produced the cash he needed to repair the historic lodge building, a rustic 70-year-old hall built of American granite and Canadian spruce logs.

5 The Globe and Mail. "Making a garden a place for conflict resolution" Sept. 4, 2007 <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20070904.PEACE04/TPStory/National>

One of the problems he faces is that the Peace Garden, which he calls the bastard child of the national parks services, is not very well known.

A May 2007 article in *The Bismarck Tribune* reports a similar account of the campaign for government funding⁶:

To save the garden, its operators decided last year that they had to tear it down in the eyes of the public.

"We painted some seriously not-so-nice pictures of the garden in the newspapers," said Doug Hevenor, who was the park's chief operations officer at the time and is now its chief executive officer. "It was a disparaging picture. That was a planned campaign. We were bringing things to (people's) attention that they might not have been noticing."

It worked.

North Dakota lawmakers this year doubled the amount of operating money for the garden and provided funds not only for long-overdue repairs, but for expansion as well. The end result, after money from Canada's federal government and Manitoba province and private donations are added in, is nearly \$1 million over the next two years for repairs and more than \$4 million to begin a \$32 million expansion project...

"We're looking to turn this facility into a year-round destination center," he (CEO Doug Hevenor)said. "If there's a stone that needs turning, we're going to turn it over."

\$32 Million Renovation Project Already Underway for Peace Garden

⁶ The Bismarck Tribune, "International Garden begins journey back" May 27, 2007
<http://www.bismarcktribune.com/articles/2007/05/27/news/state/133981.txt>

According to a recent Associated Press article, the International Peace Garden is set to begin a \$32 million renovation project financed by the United States, Canada and the state of North Dakota⁷. The article states:

The expansion plan for the park, bisected by the 49th parallel that marks the international border, includes a new stone-and-glass interpretive center, a tropical plant observatory, and a conflict resolution center that would mimic a Camp David-style retreat...

Hevenor hopes to have the project finished in seven years. The most immediate repairs needed, though, are to both buildings and the land itself.

"We've never had the money to bring in an orchard high-reach truck to do (tree) pruning," Hevenor said, checking off just a few of the items on a long to-do list. "It's been a decade since granular fertilizer has been applied to the turf. Last year was the first time in five years we've put herbicide down for broadleaf weeds and dandelions."

The waterfall that provides the main drainage system needs valve and stone work, and is nearly blocked from public view by unchecked tree growth.

One of the first major repairs will be to the garden's main lodge, one of several buildings erected by Civilian Conservation Corps workers in the 1930s during the Great Depression. The building's foundation is sinking in one area, and its floor and ceiling need major work.

However, year-long renovations to the historical building are already underway, at a cost \$200,000 less than this earmark

According to a report by KXMC News in Minot, ND, a year-long restoration project is already underway to restore the Civilian

⁷ Associated Press. "Peace Garden Getting \$32M Makeover" May 28, 2007
<http://abcnews.go.com/US/WireStory?id=3218040&page=1>

Conservation Corps Lodge at the international peace garden. The project is estimated to last one year and cost \$250,000⁸. The report stated:

(Jim Olson, KX News): But don't let the laundry list of problems make you think Poll (Dean Poll, Contractor) is sour on the couple dozen men who built this lodge without electrical power or mechanized tools back in the days of the Civilian Conservation Corps - to the contrary, he's quick to point out the signs of great craftsmanship still visible today...

Poll considers it his mission to honor that quality work by restoring what's been damaged over time to the appearance it had 70 years ago - but with new technology to help it last into the next century.

(Dean Poll, Contractor) "The timing is right, it's a great building, it's for a great purpose - to bring it back from the grave."

The restoration is expected to cost about 250-thousand dollars and be finished in about a year.

Peace Garden Renovations include a “conflict resolution center that would mimic a Camp David-style retreat”

According to a September 4 article in *The Globe and Mail* (a Canadian newspaper)⁹:

It celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, and under the ambitious leadership of Mr. Hevenor, a tightly wound 48-year-old horticulturalist, it's launching a \$32-million expansion that includes plans for a special institute of peace and conflict-resolution studies.

"This is the largest garden dedicated to peace in the world, on the longest undefended border in the world," Mr. Hevenor said,

⁸ KXMCTV Minot, “Restoring an Historical Building” May 31, 2007

<http://www.kxmc.com/t/peace-garden/128331.asp>

⁹ The Globe and Mail. “Making a garden a place for conflict resolution” Sept. 4, 2007

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20070904.PEACE04/TPStory/National>

looking toward the five-metre-wide forest clearing that marks the 49th parallel.

"Why can't Southern Manitoba and northern North Dakota be a centre for peace and conflict resolution? If you need to resolve conflict in the Middle East, why not come to this wonderful, serene place? We want to be a world leader in conflict resolution."

Former Peace Garden CEO Makes 6-figure Salary of \$250,000

According to July 26, 2006 minutes of the North Dakota Legislative Council Budget Committee on Health Care, the International Peace Garden has received multiple funding from the state legislature, which also funded former CEO Steven Locke's \$250,000 salary:¹⁰

Chairman Krauter called on Mr. Steven Locke, Chief Executive Officer/Development Director, International Peace Garden, who welcomed the committee to the International Peace Garden.

He said the Legislative Assembly appropriated \$602,854 from the general fund to the International Peace Garden for the 2005-07 biennium, which is an increase of \$250,000 from the 2003-05 biennium appropriation of \$352,854. He said the 2005-07 biennium appropriation includes a one-time appropriation of \$250,000 for planning efforts relating to the construction of a conflict resolution center.

... He said the International Peace Garden will submit a request for an additional appropriation of \$1,317,000 from the 2007 Legislative Assembly, of which \$384,000 is for salaries and operating costs and \$933,000 for needed repairs to existing infrastructure.

Mr. Locke said the Canadian national and provincial governments have offered to provide a grant of \$3.7 million (Canadian) to redevelop the International Peace Garden formal gardens and build a new year-round interpretive center.

¹⁰ July 26, 2006. Minutes of the North Dakota Legislative Council Budget Committee on Health Care

...He said the International Peace Garden will request a \$3 million appropriation from the 2007 Legislative Assembly, which is the approximate equivalent of \$3.7 million (Canadian), to be used as matching funds for the Canadian grant. He said the Canadian grant will be withdrawn in 2009 if necessary United States matching funds have not been received.

In response to a question from Senator Mathern, Mr. Locke said private funding may be used as matching funds for the Canadian grant; however, private grants are difficult to obtain.

Mr. Locke said his salary is being paid from the \$250,000 of funding provided by the Legislative Assembly.

Peace Garden seeks historic designation to make it easier to gain additional funds from government.

According to KFYZ News in Bismarck, ND:

Two more historical spots could be in for a lot more notoriety in the near future. The state's National Historic Preservation Board is working to get Camp Hancock and the Civilian Conservation Corps Lodge at the International Peace Garden put on the National Registry of Historic Places. The Board says it would be a big deal for both.

Even though Camp Hancock has been a state historic site for nearly half a century, the entire site has yet to be evaluated for National Register status.

"It's mostly the prestige," says Ryan (Mary Kate Ryan, Architectural Historian with the State Historical Society.). "When you are listed as a site you are also eligible for funding."

This means more prominence for the state and the possibility of more money to preserve the special sites, including the Civilian Conservation Corps Lodge at the International Peace Garden. It was built in the late 1930s by the CCC, and primarily used as

a meeting place to bring ideas together for the Peace Garden Board of Directors.

Recent flooding had plagued the area:

According to a June 25, 2007 news report from KXMCTV Minot:¹¹

Rain reports of several inches came in by this morning after the latest round of storms...

And next door, at the International Peace Garden the same storm dropped quite a bit of rain and caused some damage to budding flowers.

Karna Lillebo reports...

Last night's storm dropped just over three inches of rain in an hour's time and half inch to three-quarter inch hail beat down flowers for 20 minutes straight at the International Peace Garden.

For CEO Doug Hevenor that meant a night of no sleep and will mean long days of hard work to clean up the destruction left behind.

The foundation is caving in on the administration building and the basement housing archival records is flooded.

Flooding also caused damage to the gift shop.

(Doug Hevenor - CEO, International Peace Garden) "This is the water level that we were at, right here. So, what's happened is that water just eased and wicked and wicked and wicked until it

¹¹ KXMCTV Minot, "Storms Inundate Peace Garden" June 25, 2007
<http://www.kxmc.com/getArticle.asp?ArticleId=138194>

made its way into the store, and it's right through the whole retail store."

And one of the fountains looks more like a lake.

(Doug Hevenor - CEO, International Peace Garden) "There's a 30-foot bed, and then there's a turf bed, and then there's a circular pond with a fountain in it."

But it's more than just standing water. Flower beds have lost four to six inches of top soil, which has be re-deposited in unwanted places.

(Doug Hevenor - CEO, International Peace Garden) "Like where they're shoveling, right now, is about a six-foot wide bed of grass that has 10-12 feet of soil on it."

The Peace Garden is known for it's beautiful flowers, but many of them sustained considerable damage from both the rain and the hail.

(Doug Hevenor - CEO, International Peace Garden) "What a potentially normal leaf would look like versus the shredded leaf, and yet this leaf has sustained substantial damage, as well."

July 14th is the 75th anniversary for the International Peace Garden. Hevenor hopes to have Mother Nature's mess cleaned in time for the celebration.