

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Late Tuesday, the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee approved \$600,000 for the redevelopment of the former Searles Bryant School Complex in Great Barrington, MA. This project will produce 17 new affordable housing units and will represent one of the first sustainable, mixed-use, mixed-income community development projects in Berkshire County.

“This funding would give new entry-level professional workers and workers in the service, hospitality and tourism sectors desperately needed housing in proximity to their jobs,” said Congressman John Olver. “The RiverSchool complex will be an exemplar of sustainable building that conserves natural resources, utilizes existing infrastructure and revitalizes the downtown core,” Olver added.

“There could not be a better investment of federal funds than Rep. Olver’s support for the RiverSchool development: affordable housing, over a hundred new jobs, green and energy efficient adaptive reuse of buildings in our down town core. This is a federal earmark the country can be proud of and that will positively impact Berkshire County for generations,” said Tim Geller, CDC Executive Director.

The FY 2011 Transportation HUD Appropriations Bill now awaits consideration by the full House and Senate.

For more information, please contact Tim Geller, CDC Executive Director (413) 528-7788.

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