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## Durbin, Duckworth Announce Illinois Priorities Secured In Second "Minibus" Government Funding Bill

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin (D-IL), a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) today announced the Illinois priorities they helped secure in the second "minibus" of government funding bills, which follows passage of the first "minibus" of six funding bills earlier this month. The package includes funding bills for Defense; Financial Services and General Government; Homeland Security; Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies; Legislative Branch; and State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs for Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24). Durbin and Duckworth secured numerous priorities for Illinois in these appropriations bills, both through Congressionally Directed Spending requests—also known as earmarks—and through the programmatic appropriations process.

**"While I am frustrated at this year's unnecessarily drawn out process of funding the government, I am encouraged to see strong, bipartisan support for the second 'minibus,'" said Durbin. "These bills complete funding for Fiscal Year 2024, bolstering programs that benefit Illinois' families, communities, and economy."**

**"Our state and nation are stronger when we invest in our communities and families, and that's what these bipartisan funding bills do," said Duckworth. "I'm relieved we were able to pass a strong bipartisan package that not only prevents a partial government shutdown that would have hurt working families across our nation, but that also fully funds the government for the remainder of the 2024 fiscal year and secures critical support for projects all throughout our state. The Congressional Directed Spending we secured in these bills will help strengthen Illinois's economy, providing much-needed improvements to infrastructure, cleaning up our drinking water and helping keep our communities safe."**

These funding bills include the following Illinois priorities secured by Congressionally Directed Spending requests:

### Financial Services and General Government

- **Clean Technology Initiative, Chicago:** \$475,000 to Evergreen Climate Innovations to support Illinois-based clean technology startups through business development training, professional mentorship, market strategies, and networking opportunities.
- **Digitization and Preservation Initiative, Naperville:** \$800,000 to the Naperville Heritage Society to preserve and digitize archives, artifacts, and records that demonstrate the diverse history and inhabitants of Naperville and the State of Illinois. These efforts will allow the collection to be accessible to individuals regardless of location.
- **Manufacturing Supply Chain Initiative, Chicago:** \$675,000 to mHUB, a manufacturing innovation center, to develop a regional supply chain network to connect domestic suppliers and contract manufacturers with hard-tech entrepreneurs through technical assistance and network development. Such industry associations will help lower barriers to entrepreneurship and manufacturing and improve startups' chances of success.