

**WASHINGTON, DC-** Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) today secured final approval for funding for critical projects in Coos County. The South Coast Interagency Narcotics Team (SCINT) will receive \$500,000 for personnel, operational, and technology costs to ensure this critical task force can continue to fight the manufacture and trafficking of methamphetamines. The Port of Coos Bay will receive \$340,900 to replace the outdated and unsafe ice machine on the Charleston ice dock.

“SCINT has been vital to the war on meth on the Oregon coast. They have a proven track record of seizing drugs. I’m pleased I was able to help secure funding to help build on that success,” DeFazio said.

SCINT was formed in 1988 when it became clear that, with a far reaching methamphetamine

problem taking hold on the Oregon coast, individual law enforcement departments were not able to effectively provide man power, money or equipment to fight the increasing drug epidemic. SCINT assured that each member department had highly trained and experienced investigators to work with and train member agency police officers, reducing the impact of drugs and drug related crimes in the region. Despite scant funding this past year, SCINT has been extremely effective in seizing drugs and illegal firearms. But, in order to continue their good work, they require more funds.

“The up-date to the Coos Bay ice dock is long overdue. The current ice machine is expensive to repair and is an environmental and human health hazard. Without the new machine, commercial fishing in Coos Bay would be jeopardized. This would further damage the already hard hit coastal economy,” DeFazio continued.

The Charleston ice dock in Coos Bay serves 400 commercial fishing vessels daily. The existing system is prohibitively expensive to repair and emits noxious fumes which pose a health hazard to the environment and the community. If the system were not replaced, it would threaten the entire commercial fishing industry in the area because there is no other public ice dock in Southern Oregon.

The funding was included in The Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2010. The bill must now be passed by the Senate before it heads to the White House for President Obama’s signature.