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**Legislative Bulletin.....September 16, 2009**

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**H.R. 1713** – To name the South Central Agricultural Research Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture in Lane, Oklahoma, and the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 310 North Perry Street in Bennington, Oklahoma, in honor of former Congressman Wesley “Wes” Watkins

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**H.R. 1713 – To name the South Central Agricultural Research Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture in Lane, Oklahoma, and the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 310 North Perry Street in Bennington, Oklahoma, in honor of former Congressman Wesley “Wes” Watkins  
(Boren, D-OK)**

**Order of Business:** The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, September 16, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.R. 1713 would name the South Central Agricultural Research Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture in Lane, Oklahoma, and the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 310 North Perry Street in Bennington, Oklahoma, in honor of former Congressman Wesley `Wes' Watkins.

**Additional Information:** An Oklahoma State University Alumnus, former Congressman Wes W. Watkins served in the Oklahoma Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives. He was in the House for 20 years. He served on the Appropriations, Budget, and Ways and Means Committees.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1713 was introduced on March 25, 2009, and referred to the House Committee on Agriculture and the Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research, which took no public action. H.R. 1713 was also referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which held a markup and the bill passed committee by a voice vote.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 1713 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. federal building renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A committee reporting citing compliance with the rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available. However, the resolution does not contain any earmarks.

**Constitutional Authority:** Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

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