

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2307

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Bird Island Infrastructure Improvements Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Bird Island, MN, located at PO Box 130, Bird Island, MN 55310.

The funding would be used for a city-wide drinking water distribution replacement project to address aging cast iron mains that span over 30 city blocks and fail to meet Minnesota Department of Health standards. The project will replace these mains to prevent lead contamination, resolve health and sanitation concerns, and provide safe, clean drinking water for residents, businesses, and visitors. The work is planned in four phases to complete the full system upgrade.

This project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it addresses a critical public health and safety issue by replacing aging water mains that are contributing to lead contamination. Its purpose is to provide safe, clean, and reliable drinking water for residents, businesses, and visitors, ensuring the community meets state health standards. Investing in these improvements now protects public health, prevents costly emergency repairs, and extends the life of the City's water infrastructure.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding is provided for purposes authorized by the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. §300f.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress