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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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March 18, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the BMI Airport Terminal Passenger Boarding Bridges Replacement in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Central Illinois Regional Airport Authority located at 3201 CIRA Dr. Suite 200, Bloomington, IL 61704. The funding would be used to replace the airport terminal passenger boarding bridges at BMI Regional Airport Authority. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the BMI airport has no available airline gate space to accommodate added service or a new entrant airline. By completing this project, the airport will immediately increase airline gate capacity by 20% for a very small fraction of the cost of a building expansion project, thereby saving scarce capital funds while supporting airline competition, more choices, and balanced air fares. Additionally, completing this project will ensure unlimited accessibility/convenience for the airport's ADA travelers using these airline gates serving large aircraft with their much higher door threshold heights.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 49 U.S.C. 47100 et seq.

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

Sincerely,



Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress