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March 20, 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 Gridley Street Sewer Separation project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Bloomington located at 115 E. Washington St. Bloomington, IL 61701. The funding would be used for supporting the construction of over 1,050 feet of storm sewer construction and 1,200 feet of sanitary sewer construction, which would prevent stormwater infiltration into the sanitary water system during rain events. It would also go toward constructing 450 feet of flood mitigation box culverts and 32 new inlet, manhole, and catch basin structures to allow easy maintenance access for the system. This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because separating the sewer would directly protect the health, safety, and property of residents in some of Bloomington's oldest and most economically vulnerable neighborhoods. Additionally, the combined sewer overflows — the discharge of untreated sewage into waterways when combined systems exceed their capacity — are a documented federal environmental compliance concern. Under federal mandate, municipalities nationwide have been required to spend millions to eliminate combined sewers and the overflows they produce. The Gridley Street separation advances that federal environmental policy objective, reduces the risk of sewage discharge to area waterways, and moves Bloomington toward the ability to withstand a 10-year rain event without the sewage backup and street flooding.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C. 1383(c) (Section 603(c) of the Clean Water Act).

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