



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I request community project funding for the Upper Mississippi River - Illinois Waterway System, IL, IA, MN, MO, & WI project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the US Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, located at 1500 Rock Island Dr., Rock Island, IL 61201. The funding will address improvements to the busiest one-fifth of Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway (UMR-IWW) locks in a waterway system of 1,175 miles of commercially navigable channels. Construction of a 1,200-foot chamber adjacent to an existing 600-foot chamber will provide more efficient transportation not only from their size but also making two-way transit at locks possible. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will ensure the economic and environmental sustainability of the waterway, the only river system that Congress identified in 1986 as "a nationally significant ecosystem and a nationally significant commercial navigation system."

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by P.L. 100-114, Sections 8003 and 8004 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

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

Sincerely,

Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress