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

May 16, 2025

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  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Rehabilitation of the Meridian Road Bridge Over the Pecatonica River project in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Winnebago County, located at 404 Elm Street, Rockford, Illinois, 61101. The funding would be used for the replacement of the Meridian Road Bridge. The existing bridge has a sufficiency rating of 38.5, which qualifies the bridge to be either replaced or rehabilitated per the Illinois Department of Transportation Special Bridge Program. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Meridian Road serves as a vital transportation artery for over 1,700 daily vehicles, including vehicles for the local agricultural and farming community. The project will provide further access and support for safe transportation of agricultural products and commodities across the bridge. The ability for farmers to get their crops to market safely is fundamental to local agriculture in central Illinois.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133(b).

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