

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2703

May 16, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Fort Laramie Canal Tunnel Restoration Project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is Bureau of Reclamation, Wyoming Area Office, located at 705 Pendell Blvd. Mills, WY 82644. The funding would be used for excavation of portal and canal transitions and for soil nails at Tunnels #1 and #2 of the Gering-Fort Laramie Canal. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the catastrophic collapse of the canal tunnels in 2019 left approximately 55,000 acres of farmland in Western Nebraska without necessary irrigation water and caused \$89 million in economic loss. And although the tunnels were temporarily repaired after the failure, they are at risk of another catastrophic failure in absence of an immediate, permanent repair. The project has a Federal nexus because it is authorized under 43 U.S.C Chapter 12, Subchapter XI-B, §510b (a). I certify I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress