

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

March 20, 2026

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 City of Auburn Water Storage Facility project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Auburn, NE, located at 1101 J Street, Auburn, NE 68305. The funding would be used to construct a one-million-gallon elevated water storage facility to replace its aging reservoir, improving system reliability, fire protection, and long-term capacity for community growth. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because reliable water infrastructure is foundational to economic productivity and rural resilience, and a catastrophic reservoir failure would disrupt commerce, impair emergency response, and impose substantial financial strain on residents. The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 300j-12. I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress