

ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD
1ST DISTRICT, ARKANSAS

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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
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Craighead Technology Park in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City Water and Light Plant of the City of Jonesboro (CWL), located at 400 E. Monroe Ave., Jonesboro, AR 72401. The funding would be used to prepare an approximately 620-acre site in the new Craighead Technology Park (CTP) South industrial park with water infrastructure for interested industries looking to locate in Jonesboro. CWL is the provider of water, wastewater, and electric utilities in Jonesboro, and owns approximately 220 acres of the land for the proposed site. Specifically, the funding will be used to extend a 24" water line to the property. This line will provide approximately nine million gallons per day of water flow to CTP South. As the needs of the new park warrant, CWL is committed to drill new wells and build a 30" water main extension to the commerce pumping station at an estimated cost of \$5.5 million. CWL is also committed to pay for the needed electric infrastructure upgrades for the park, estimated at \$7 million, in accordance with CWL approved policy.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the current single circuit, three-phase electric line makes it undesirable for potential economic development. Following the COVID-19 pandemic, companies across all industries have been forced to cut overhead expenses. Many manufacturers are looking for opportunities to relocate and/or expand to geographic locations with a lower cost of living, lower taxes, and fewer governmental restrictions and regulations. Jonesboro offers all these sought-after economic benefits, but currently has no shovel ready tracts larger than two hundred acres. Projects requiring a site of that size or larger, typically carry heavier investments and provide higher-wage job opportunities. High-wage employment is the

foundational component of individual prosperity and health. The goal for this property is to make Jonesboro attractive nationally to large-scale industry and bring high wage jobs to Jonesboro and Northeast Arkansas residents.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1) and 5305(a)(2).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Crawford", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
MEMBER OF CONGRESS