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1ST DISTRICT, ARKANSAS

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March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairmanwoman
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 North End Clean Up/ Eaker Air Force Base, Mississippi County, Blytheville, Arkansas Congressional District 1 in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Mississippi County, AR, located at 200 W. Walnut, Blytheville, AR 72315.

The funding would be used for all equipment, labor, and transportation necessary to complete the "wet demolition", hauling away, and disposal of approximately 238 dilapidated duplex structures (476 units) on the north end of Arkansas Aeroplex (formerly Eaker Air Force Base) in Blytheville, AR. Demolition and removal shall include the duplexes, concrete slabs, foundations, footings, sidewalks, driveways, and all debris that has sporadically been dumped all over the area over the previous years. All debris material shall be disposed at the Mississippi County Landfill as asbestos containing debris, and accordance with all applicable federal and state regulations. The funding would provide for all equipment, supplies and labor to line each dumpster bin with poly, keep the structure wet as it is being razed, load the wet debris into the poly lined dumpsters, then wrap and seal the debris prior to manifesting and transporting to the landfill. In addition, small trees and undergrowth shall be removed across the 92 acres to access the properties needing to be demolished. Large, older, "original" trees shall be left in place. Funding would also provide for the seeding and strawing on the site in stages as demolition is completed in sections. Finally, the funding would provide for all landfill fees, the relocation of underground utilities, work permits, demolition permits, and all applicable insurances to protect and indemnify the property owner from the costs of damage to property or persons.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because after closure of Eaker Air Force Base in 1992, the Department of Defense has provided little support in repurposing and cleaning up the site, which is located adjacent to a school and a retirement home. Core components of the project include the remediation of toxic chemicals such as PFOS and lead paint and level the existing dilapidated structures on the site which are beyond repair. After the closure of the base the community was hit hard by the massive job losses. However, in recent years Mississippi County has attracted several businesses and now boasts the title of the largest steel-producing county in the United States but without the land available to support the housing demands that have with a growing economy.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4).

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", written in a cursive style.

Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
MEMBER OF CONGRESS