

ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD  
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 the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas Navigation System, AR & OK project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The funding would be used for Funds will be used to complete 30 critical maintenance projects such as miter gate replacements, tainter gate repairs, stoplog replacements, installation of stoplog slots, bridge bearing replacement, and embankment repair work.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Funding will be used to address the backlog of critical maintenance projects along the 50-year-old MKARNS system. The future economic viability of the MKARNS is at risk as there is currently more than a \$300 million backlog for projects including locks, dams, and other important equipment that is deteriorating to dangerous conditions. The MKARNS is vital to the economies of Arkansas and Oklahoma, as well as Kansas, which sends or receives 49 percent of the tonnage coming through ports along the MKARNS. A critical failure on the system could result in it being shut down for months and even a temporary shutdown could put future use of the system at risk, as businesses would no longer see the MKARNS as reliable and would likely find other means to transport their goods. Losing navigation on the entire MKARNS would cost over 6,000 jobs and cause national GDP to decline by \$723 million.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 1401 of the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, 132 STAT. 3836 (Public Law 115-270).

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