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May 3, 2024

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Mississippi County – North End Clean-Up/Eaker AFB, Blytheville, AR in Fiscal Year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Mississippi County, located at Blytheville Courthouse, 200 West Walnut, Blytheville, AR 72315. The funding will be used by the Mississippi County, Arkansas, government to remediate toxic chemicals, including PFOA and lead paint, in buildings on a 100-acre site on the former Eaker Air Force Base. The site will be cleaned and cleared of dilapidated and unsafe buildings in an effort to redevelop the site into new housing.

This is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the 100-acre site is on former Air Force land, that was abandoned by the U.S. Government after Eaker AFB underwent Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) in 1992. The federal government has not provided adequate support to the community to clean-up the base since its abandonment. The site is adjacent to the National Cold War Center and the Aeroplex, and the county is in need of affordable, new housing for the growing steel manufacturing industry. Mississippi County is the largest steel producing county in America, but continued economic growth is dependent upon new housing stock for workers and their families. Continued growth of the steel industry in the U.S. has a significant economic impact on the entire nation.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5303(a)(4).

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

Sincerely,



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford  
Member of Congress