

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

January 10, 2025

The Honorable Shalanda Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503

The Honorable Jaime A. Pinkham
Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
441 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Director Young and Acting Assistant Secretary Pinkham:

As work continues on a supplemental Work Plan pursuant to the American Relief Act of 2025 (H.R.10545), we write to request the inclusion of at least \$26.25 million to support the completion of the Lee County, VA Environmental Infrastructure Sewer Improvements project.

This project was authorized by Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992, as amended (Eastern Shore and Southwest Virginia, VA). In February 2022, this project received \$281,295 to complete the design process and \$2.2 million to initiate construction from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) FY22 Spend Plan. The 2022 WRDA also included language increasing the authorization for the project from \$20 million to \$52 million.

Once complete, this project will provide wastewater service to hundreds of households and over 1,000 residents in Lee County, Virginia, Hancock and Claiborne counties in Tennessee, and Harlan and Bell counties in Kentucky. This regional project would also serve as the basis for expanding Lincoln Memorial University, which is an integral driver of the region's economy. The estimated total cost for this project is \$35 million, including an estimated federal cost of \$26.25 million.

Currently, most residents in western Lee County are not served by a public wastewater collection or treatment facility. Most households in the region are primarily served by individual septic tank and drain field systems. Completion of the Lee County Sewer Improvements project will support public health, enhance water quality, and create significant new opportunities for economic growth in the region.

Completion of the Lee County Sewer Improvements project is more critical than ever following the impacts of Hurricane Helene on Southwest Virginia. The storm caused significant damage to wastewater infrastructure across Southwest Virginia, highlighting the age and vulnerability of many of the systems across the region. Lee County was one of the 18 localities in Southwest

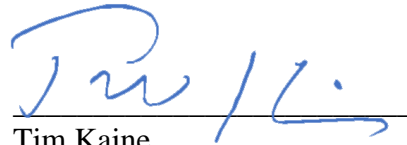
Virginia hardest hit by Hurricane Helene that qualified for Individual Assistance under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Successful implementation of this project will harden this community against the impacts of future storm events, which will support public health and water quality in the region.

Thank you for your attention to this request. We look forward to working with you to support this critical project for Lee County and Southwest Virginia. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions regarding this request.

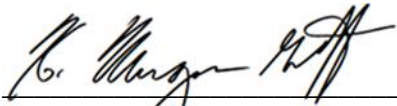
Sincerely,



Mark R. Warner
U.S. Senator



Tim Kaine
U.S. Senator



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress