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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3103

May 23, 2025

Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Raton, NM Ports to Plains in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Raton, with the New Mexico Department of Transportation as the recipient, whose address is 224 Savage Avenue, Raton, NM 87740. The funding would be used to complete a City Location Study in Raton, NM, to determine the alignment between US 87 (Future Interstate 27) and Interstate 25. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it serves as an initial step toward upgrading vital interstate infrastructure, benefiting not only Raton but also the entire Ports-to-Plains Corridor stretching from the United States-Mexico border through multiple states and into Canada. By enhancing transportation routes, the project facilitates trade, commerce, and regional connectivity, bolstering economic development across various sectors. Recently, it was announced that the Department of Defense has designated the Ports to Plains route coming through Raton to move defense equipment quickly from Fort Carson in Colorado to Port Arthur in Texas, making it a critical infrastructure project for the Country.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 § USC 133 (Surface Transportation Block Grant Program).

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

Sincerely,



Teresa Leger Fernández
Member of Congress