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CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0404

March 26, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for Future Interstate 49 Project Development in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Arkansas Department of Transportation, located at 10324 Interstate 30, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72209. ARDOT is seeking additional funding to allocate towards project development of a new, four-lane divided, Future Interstate 49, from South of Barling in Sebastian County to "Y" City in Scott County. This work will include interchanges and numerous overpasses and main lane bridge structures. This project will fill over 40 miles of the 154-mile gap of the Interstate 49 Corridor in Arkansas. When the 154-mile gap of Interstate 49 is complete, Interstate 49 will link the Gulf Coast with the central United States and Canada in support of international and domestic commerce, as well as tourism.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because when completed, Interstate 49 will integrate regions of the country, improve safety and efficiency of travel and commerce, and promote economic development across the country.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133.

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

Sincerely,



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress