

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2404

May 24, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman, Committee on
Appropriations
The U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Committee on
Appropriations
The U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

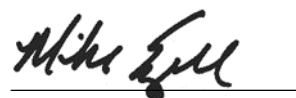
I am requesting funding for Coastal Railroad Rehabilitation and Velocity Improvement Project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the George County, located at 5177 Main Street Lucedale, MS 39452. The funding would be used for increasing train velocity and the efficient movement of freight in South Mississippi by rehabilitating mainline track and associated infrastructure in George County, Mississippi and Jackson County, Mississippi.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the current Mississippi Export Railroad's (MSE) mainline is over 100 years old and has endured heavy use and natural disasters (Hurricane Katrina, Rita, Nate and Sally) in the recent decades. This situation has resulted in significant drainage concerns and excessive maintenance that negatively impacts the flow of freight through the region. This project will address the current deficiencies, restore train velocity, and increase import/export capacities through the Ports of Pascagoula, MS and Mobile, AL.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 22907 of title 49 of the United States Code.

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

Sincerely,



Mike Ezell
Member of Congress