

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

March 18th, 2026

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:

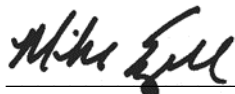
I am requesting funding for the The Center at Forrest County Emergency Staging Improvements project in fiscal year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Forrest County Board of Supervisors located at 641 North Main St. Hattiesburg, MS, 39401. The funding would be used to provide strategic repairs and improvements to The Center at Forrest County for its continued use as an emergency staging area, shelter, and critical community center for all the Hattiesburg Metropolitan Statistical Area.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because this project will fund critical repairs and upgrades to The Center at Forrest County, a regional public facility that serves as an emergency operations center, disaster staging area, and storm shelter for communities across south Mississippi. For more than two decades, the facility has provided a centralized location for emergency response coordination, housing first responders, utility crews, and displaced residents during major weather events, including hurricanes impacting the Gulf Coast region.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in Community Development Fund (CDF): 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

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