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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
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COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHERN
AFRICA
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA

March 27, 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 the Watchung Valley Road Sidewalk Improvements project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Borough of Watchung, located at 15 Mountain Boulevard, Watchung, NJ 07069.

The funding would be used to reconstruct approximately 7,000 linear feet of sidewalk on Valley Road, between Knightsbridge and Bayberry Lane in Watchung. Valley Road is a major thoroughfare in Watchung, connecting many local landmarks such as Bayberry Elementary School and various residential streets to Watchung's downtown business district, the Watchung Library, Watchung Arts Center, the Watchung Municipal Building, churches, local businesses, and parks. In 2019, a pedestrian, aged approximately 12 years old, was struck by a vehicle and was seriously injured while walking on Valley Road within the project limits. These existing conditions pose significant hazards for pedestrians and are in urgent need of reconstruction to improve pedestrian safety and ADA-accessibility within the Borough of Watchung.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will improve pedestrian safety and ADA-accessibility, ensuring that every 200 feet of sidewalk would have one "passing zone", with a width of 5-6 feet to accommodate two wheelchairs side-by-side. This project would connect the Borough's East and West sides, providing a direct pedestrian sidewalk between Watchung's downtown business district and its residential neighborhoods to the east.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Kean, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Kean, Jr.
Member of Congress