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

May 10, 2023

The Honorable Tom Cole Chair Committee on Appropriations H-307 The Capitol Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Rose DeLauro Ranking Member Committee on Appropriations 1036 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Brandon Road (Mill Race) Bridge project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Town of Dudley, located at 71 West Main St, Dudley, MA 01571. The funding would be used for construction of a temporary modular bridge to replace the Brandon Road (Mill Race) Bridge.

This is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds as the bridge has been inaccessible since June 2021. It's closure has restricted access between the Towns of Dudley and Webster, resulting in traffic congestion, longer response times for emergency vehicles, and impacting local businesses. If the funding for a temporary bridge is not found, it could be five or more years before the road reopens.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for the purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

Pursuant to House rule XXIII, clause 17, I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Neal Member of Congress