March 24, 2023

The Honorable Mike Simpson  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
2007 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Pingree,

I am requesting funding for the Gunnison Water Treatment Plant Project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Gunnison. A new Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to supply water to Gunnison’s citizens is paramount and the City’s highest priority. The current method uses a shallow well field that has been identified in the 2022 Water Master Plan and the Source Water Protection Plan as a high risk of contamination and subject to drought issues.

This project will be a good use of taxpayer dollars because the City of Gunnison is a rural mountain community founded in 1859. The median household income is 41% below the State of Colorado’s median household income average and has been deemed by the State of Colorado as a Disadvantaged Community.

Currently, the City does not have a water treatment facility, and currently uses an antiquated disinfection method by injecting chlorine down each well at each of its nine groundwater wells. A new Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to supply water to Gunnison’s citizens is paramount and the City’s highest priority. The current method uses a shallow well field that has been identified in the 2022 Water Master Plan and the Source Water Protection Plan as a high risk of contamination and subject to drought issues. These wells pump through many lead jointed pipes directly into the distribution system for potable use without any means of treatment, only disinfection.

The City has not kept pace with modern treatment processes. Two of the three water storage tanks contain lead and asbestos paint and are undersized for future needs. The City desires to construct a new WTP to implement modern treatment processes to refine water quality for its citizens, and to diversify its water intake source by using the City’s robust water rights portfolio.

In addition, the City, as part of its water rights, would like to have an on-site water storage reservoir that would further diversify the system in case of extreme drought, contamination, or...
other adverse events. By connecting the water treatment plant using a pipe manifold to tie together existing groundwater wells, three additional wells, and a new Infiltration Gallery is a vital part of providing a diversified water source. Additionally, the replacement of the three smaller water storage tanks with a larger one will be planned.

A 250KW solar array and geo/hydrothermal heating & cooling system will be part of the project at the WTP. The City plans to apply for a low interest leveraged loan from the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority (SRF). Even with the inclusion of $5 million principal forgiveness through the BIL provision coupled with a $1 million Tier 2 grant via DOLA, the fiscal responsibility still remains with our low-income residents, with many on fixed incomes.

The City has implemented the first of three planned 25% water rate increases in anticipation of this project. This will become burdensome and is concerning. Especially after the City just completed a $14 million dollar Wastewater Treatment Plant modernization and Efficiency project, whereas sewer rates were increased nearly 50% and Utility Investment fees have increased 300%. In the past seven years, the water and sewer rates have doubled in Gunnison. With this $3 million-dollar community project funding appropriation, these funds would offset approximately $5 per month for 20 years for approximately 2,593 existing residential customers.

The City does not have a treatment plant to remove or treat contaminants, only provides minimal disinfection using multiple shallow wells. Based on recent studies, their water supply is at risk of contamination for various reasons. The general mission statement of both the EPA and CDPHE are to protect human health and the environment. Their purpose is to ensure all Americans are protected from significant risks to human health and the environment where they live, learn and work.

Mitigating the risks of contamination, providing alternate water supplies in severe drought or other adverse conditions, diversifying water supply to providing alternate water supply available through the city's robust water rights portfolio, providing a safe and reliable treatment process to remove contaminants harmful for human consumption, removing the threat of the dangers of lead poisoning, and eliminating lead and asbestos lined water tanks all fall within the mission statements of both agencies to protect human health and the environment.

Protecting America's drinking water is a top priority of EPA, this community, this district, and the State of Colorado. Their needs fall directly in line with the mission statements of EPA and CDPHE. Having a safe, reliable, and abundant supply of drinking water should be a top priority. It is important to the State of Colorado that all residents through its municipalities are afforded safe, reliable and affordable potable water for its residents, whether it is used for drinking, domestic use, food production, or recreational purposes.

The City of Gunnison has an obligation to provide essential utility services that are safe, reliable, and affordable. Improved water supply and sanitation, and better management of water resources, can boost local and the State's economic growth and can contribute greatly to poverty reduction. Water is the nourishment of life. It is important that the City of Gunnison's residents be provided affordable, safe, and reliable water for its future.
This project will utilize taxpayer funds to support a rural disadvantaged community further strengthening the City's ability to provide the residents of Gunnison and its visitors a future of safe, reliable, and affordable water. This $3,000,000 would help maintain competitive rates and will enable the city to connect its groundwater supply to the treatment plant via three existing water wells coupled with the construction of three new water wells to diversify our water supply, making Gunnison more resilient.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j12.

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

Sincerely,

Lauren Boebert

Member of Congress
March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the new signalized intersection US Highway 160/East Bayfield Parkway Project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Town of Bayfield located at 1199 Bayfield Parkway, PO Box 80 Bayfield, CO 8112. This funding will be used to establish a new signalized intersection US Highway 160/East Bayfield Parkway.

This is a good use of taxpayer dollars because US 160 goes from Flagstaff, Arizona to eastern Missouri—it is a major southern freight route through multiple states. US 160 bisects the Bayfield community with traffic traveling at speeds of 55-65 mph through Town, limiting community connectivity. With only one signalized intersection in both directions for 12 miles (west) to 40 miles (east), the lack of safe intersections along this section of the US 160 corridor creates a significant safety concern for both pedestrians and motorists trying to cross the highway to get from one side of the community to the other. Therefore, the need for a second signalized intersection at the intersection of East Bayfield Parkway and US 160 has been discussed for many years. The 2014 Town of Bayfield US 160 Traffic Feasibility Study and the 2015 Town of Bayfield US 160 Access Study both show a full movement signalized intersection at this location. In 2020 the Southwest Transportation Planning Region (TPR) included this project on the list of priority projects for the region, but it was not put on the 10-year funded project list.

The Town of Bayfield is taking the lead in getting this intersection funded and constructed. The Town has submitted an Access Permit application to the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) and hired Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. to do the engineering plans, which are currently at 60% design. This intersection project is the first phase of a larger project including the construction of a new public roadway on the north side of the intersection that will connect to the existing Town street system with an additional access for the Middle School and newer Intermediate School. This intersection is key to providing connectivity for current and projected residents of Bayfield by: providing a safe alternative for those walking, biking or driving across US 160; reducing vehicle/pedestrian and vehicle/vehicle conflicts; benefiting our Disproportionately Impacted (DI) residents by providing them with more accessible and flexible options to get around Bayfield; providing additional mobility options for seniors or persons with disabilities; and providing safe routes to schools for children.
The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133(b).

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

Sincerely,

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress
March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Blue Hill project in Eagle County, Colorado in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this request is the Colorado Department of Transportation, located at 2829 West Howard Pl, Denver, CO, 80204. I-70 through Glenwood Canyon has a high probability of frequent closures due to rockslides and mudslides as a result of the Grizzly Creek Fire in 2020. These possible closures will have a lasting effect on tourism and local businesses which will negatively impact the rural economy. Canyon closures also impact health and public safety. In the past, medical professionals and emergency workers have been unable to get to their workplaces which has an impact on the rural communities that rely on them for health care and public safety. The funding will be used to make safety and road improvements to an alternate route around the Canyon, like Cottonwood Pass, will allow travelers and the local workforce to arrive at their intended destinations without being forced to take a 6-hour detour through northern Colorado. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it would help would have a tough time being fully funded without federal funds, improves public safety and is a top priority for local taxpayers.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by chapter 23 of title 133(b) 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,

Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress
March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Craig-South Distribution Line Improvement Project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Craig, located at 300 W 4th Street, Craig, CO 81625. The funding would be used to establish water distribution infrastructure providing potable water and fire flows to the Craig-Moffat County Airport, parks and recreational assets or residential and industrial development and growth on the south side of the Yampa River.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it looks to support the agencies who work to control wildfires in the region and provide the Airport a seriously needed upgrade as identified in their Airport Improvement Masterplan for the improvements related to fire control and emergency response Infrastructure. In addition, as our coal reliant community moves towards a more diversified economy, we look to enhance our recreational amenities and make these natural and recreational assets available to tourists and enthusiasts visiting our area. Having water distribution infrastructure in key areas will support development of recreational and entertainment venues as we continue to host a growing list of key events benefiting from our natural and recreational environment and lifestyle.

Areas south of the Yampa River already support a growing residential community and this project will make it possible to attract developers and more residential opportunities with the introduction of potable water to the South Ranney and Thompson Hill areas.

Overall, as we look at the closure of our primary employers in Moffat County over the next 7-8 years, diversifying our economic base through enhanced infrastructure development will be critical to our efforts to grow our community and strengthen our economy.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 49 U.S.C. 47100 et seq.

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

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Lauren Boebert

Member of Congress
March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the I-70 Interchange at 29 Road in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Grand Junction located at 250 North 5th Street Grand Junction, CO 8150.

The funding would be used to construct a new interchange on I-70 at 29 Road to facilitate transportation network connectivity at the local and regional levels and enhanced access to support adjacent land use and existing and planned population and employment growth. Mesa County and the City are partnering on the NEPA/1601 Study with CDOT and FHWA. The process has confirmed that the interchange is warranted, and that 29 Road is the selected location for enhanced access to I-70. Final environmental documentation is underway with expected completion in late 2023. Requested federal funds would be used to complete preliminary engineering and right-of-way acquisition. Federal funds would be fully obligated within 12 months of receipt.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because provide a key connection to an area of planned substantial economic development adjacent to the Grand Junction Regional Airport as well as support planned population and employment growth in the region. The new I-70 interchange and arterial improvements are important for local and regional connectivity and will reduce out-of-direction travel for area residents, reduce congestion at adjacent interchanges and improve multimodal mobility and safety for the community south of I-70. The associated economic development will better connect local residents to job opportunities in planned employment centers.

The project will augment and relieve CDOT’s existing infrastructure at the adjacent Clifton/I-70B and Horizon Drive interchanges and will accommodate more direct travel, reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled and greenhouse gas emissions. Transportation Demand Management (TDM) to be incorporated include enhanced transit service, bicycle and pedestrian mobility opportunities and connectivity along with park and ride with electric vehicle charging stations to help support I-70 as an Alternative Fuels Corridor. The additional infrastructure with new I-70 freeway access to a key north-south arterial will improve resilience and overall mobility after a disruptive event.
or changing conditions. The enhanced transportation network connection will provide an additional alternate route during emergencies that does not depend on highway arterial roadways.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 23 USC 133(b).

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

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Lauren Boebert

Member of Congress
March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Huerfano County Water Storage Project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Huerfano County. The funding will be used to fortify the bank of Sheep Mountain Reservoir, an important augmentation facility located at 672 County Road 550, approximately 2 miles west of Gardner, Huerfano County. Fortifying this reservoir will increase available water storage. The reservoir was completed in 2021 as a supporting structure under the Huerfano County Water Conservancy District (HCWCD) Huerfano Basin Regional Augmentation Plan. It has been used for storage and water releases since September 2021.

Abnormally high winds and wave runup have impacted the top 10 feet of the reservoir, threatening the stability of the reservoir liner and the reservoir’s storage capacity, requiring ballast stabilization.

Phase 1 of the project involves importing and placing 12-inch D50 riprap in a band from the high-water line down about 10 vertical feet for erosive protection of the reservoir liner. Bedding/filter material will consist of ¾-inch rock that will be placed on top of the liner and below the riprap. Phase 2 of the project would take place after the level of the reservoir has dropped and involves repeating the phase 1 process in an additional band that continues down another 10 vertical feet.

This project is a good use of taxpayer dollars because in this water-short region of southern Colorado, the benefit of this project to the community is a water storage structure that can be relied upon and used to its full potential in the decades to come. Of particular note is that, through augmentation, the water stored in this reservoir provides the only domestic water available to the residents of Gardner and the Gardner School.

The storage provides HCWCD a means to provide critical augmentation water supply throughout the winter and spring months when HCWCD’s other water supplies are unavailable. Fortifying Sheep Mountain Reservoir plays a part in securing water storage and drought resiliency, both called out in the Colorado Water Plan as critical strategies toward a sustainable water future for Colorado.

This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a)(2).

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

Sincerely,

Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress
March 31, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Medal of Honor Blvd Extension in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Pueblo County Government located at 215 West 10th Street Pueblo CO 81003. These funds will be used to extend the Medal of Honor Boulevard will include trails and bike paths which will improve the quality of life for residents of Pueblo County.

The Medal of Honor Boulevard has the potential to generate catalytic impacts on development in the area, especially when combined with other capital projects currently underway. The public investment for the projects in this area, spurred by the Medal of Honor Boulevard extension, is estimated at $32M annually, with $21M of that being a net new private investment. This will have a significant positive impact on Pueblo’s economy. Additional socioeconomic benefits are generated for residents through time savings and reduced congestion at a rate of $4.5 million per year.

This is a good use of taxpayer dollars because U.S. Highway 50 (US 50) is the only main arterial access from Pueblo West to downtown Pueblo, with no effective alternate routes in and out of the area. This singular access corridor often results in lengthy traffic delays, congestion, and collisions, severely reducing the safety of travelers. This also poses a safety threat during emergencies that require evacuation, such as fires and flooding. Emergency vehicles often struggle to travel efficiently through Pueblo West via US 50, facing delays of up to an hour, hindering critical response times, and compromising public safety. Beyond safety, existing roadway issues impact a range of factors that ultimately decrease the quality of life not only for drivers but also for the surrounding community, the wider region, and future generations.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Chapter 23 of Title 133 (b) of the United States Code.

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

I thank you for your consideration of my request and your leadership on the committee.

Sincerely,

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress
March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Town of Silt Water Plant Renovations Project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Town of Silt. The Town of Silt water plant project will improve the water capacity and quality of drinking water to the Town of Silt. The only source of water for Silt is the Colorado River. With the latest wildfires, and mudslides water quality of the river has diminished. Treating this water is becoming more problematic. This plant will ensure that Silt will be able to treat the water and supply the Town with quality water. Silt has discovered that its current water treatment plant is not adequate for its current needs and is on the verge of failure.

Silt is a growing community on the Western Slope of Colorado within the 3rd District. This project will ensure quality drinking water for the Town of Silt and surrounding area. This will also meet the demand for the growth that is occurring in the area.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j12. I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress
The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20515

March 31, 2023

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the South Bridge project in Glenwood Springs, Colorado in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this request is the City of Glenwood Springs, located at 101 W. 8th Street, Glenwood Springs, CO 81601.

This funding will be used to construct a new bridge connection that will provide a critical second emergency route/evacuation access between State Highway 82 and the western side of the Roaring Fork River in the City’s South Corridor. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it would help would have a tough time being fully funded without federal funds and is a top priority for local taxpayers.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Chapter 23 of Title 133 (b) 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,

[Signature]

Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress
March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
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H-307 The Capitol
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The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the White River Regional Water Supply Project in fiscal year 2024. The funding will be invested immediately in the intentional and collaborative analysis and investigative reviews of the Wolf Creek Reservoir Project.

The White River is facing an imminent water crisis. Kenney Reservoir, the only storage reservoir on the lower White River, is 85% silted in and will lose remaining water storage capacity by 2029. The Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District realized the severity of this pending water crisis and initiated project planning for an alternate water storage site in 2013. After screening of identified alternative sites, the Wolf Creek Reservoir was identified as the preferred water supply alternative. The RBWCD has a water right for a 66,720 acre-foot at Wolf Creek Reservoir that was obtained in 2021. The completed critical infrastructure multi-purpose project involves construction of a dam and water supply reservoir on Wolf Creek, an ephemeral drainage of the White River.

This project will be a good use of taxpayer dollars because Wolf Creek is the lynchpin for reviving our local economy. This region is dependent on a declining fossil fuel industry and is a Tier 1 region for Colorado’s Just Transition from coal-fired power generation by 2028. Wolf Creek Reservoir will move the region towards a new economic reality while ensuring vital regional water security and has the potential for significant environmental, conservation, and endangered fish enhancements.

The project offers short term construction benefits as well as vital long term economic benefits from water-based tourism and recreation. The project will protect and stimulate rural development, including agriculture, for present and future water users. Wolf Creek will bring new employment, income, business generation, and tax revenues to Northwest Colorado. This project will generate a cumulative total of $535M in spending resulting in $19M in sales tax revenues and 360 new jobs for the first 30 years of operations. All of this will occur in a rural area with serious economic and water challenges. This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a)(2). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress