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May 15, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$1,100,000 for the Sweetwater Hospital Radiology Department Modernization in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Sweetwater Hospital Association, located at 304 Wright Street, Sweetwater, Tennessee 37874. The hospital is in rural and medically underserved Monroe County, and also serves parts of Meigs, McMinn, Roane, Rhea, Polk, Blount, and Loudon counties, most of which are also rural and medically underserved. The current Radiology Department equipment and facilities are significantly out of date, which risks patient safety due to antiquated technology and diminishes care due to prolonged down-time for repairs and maintenance. The project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because maintaining modern and dependable radiology equipment and facilities is essential to meeting the community's healthcare needs, including life-saving emergency patient assessments. Utilization of radiology services has grown over 26% over the past five years. The requested modernization will support the growth in inpatient, surgery, outpatient, emergency, and obstetrical services to meet community needs.

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).

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

Sincerely,

Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress