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CHAIRMAN, ENERGY AND WATER

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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 \$11,608,000 for the Oak Ridge Legacy Water Infrastructure Project in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Oak Ridge, located at 200 S. Tulane Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37831. This will enable the urgently needed replacement of original World War II-era water lines, valves and control systems which are at the end of service life. The replacement of the 82-year-old existing water treatment facility is a top priority for the City of Oak Ridge. These funds would support the acquisition of a new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for the water treatment plant and to replace twelve-inch (12") cast iron original feed lines to two major tanks and Pressure Reducing Valves (PRVs) that control the pressure fed from these tanks. Public health will be improved by reducing the possibility of lead exposure, which is common given the age of the legacy waterlines, and which is the subject of a major national regulatory initiative. This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will provide a safe and reliable water system for the citizens of Oak Ridge, and for the critical national security and advanced energy, science, and technology missions located in the city.

This 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. 300j-12.

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