

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1501

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Matt Cartwright
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, &
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, &
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cartwright and Ranking Member Aderholt:

As you begin crafting the fiscal year 2023 Commerce, Justice, Science, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$1,000,000 in community project funding for the Advanced Hydrologic Monitoring, Assessment, and Flood Forecasting for Eastern Iowa project at the University of Iowa, College of Engineering, Iowa Flood Center, located at 320 S. Riverside Drive, 306 SHL, Iowa City, IA 52242.

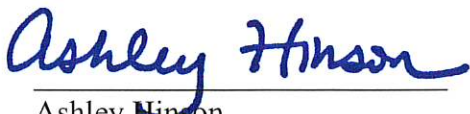
The Iowa Flood Center (IFC) is at the cutting edge of research on flooding and related hydrologic activity. This funding would allow the IFC to install new rain gauges, water quality sensors, and other remote sensing technology along the Lower Cedar River and Maquoketa River Watersheds to monitor hydrological data in real-time. It would also help develop enhanced forecasting tools to predict and communicate future flood events. The ability to monitor this information in real-time will provide the most up-to-date information to the National Weather Service (NWS), allowing the agency to improve its forecast accuracy.

The IFC would also expand its network of hydrologic stations by installing one hydrologic station in each of 28 counties across Eastern Iowa that do not currently have a station. These stations inform the Center's forecast models and provide critical, publicly available information to local landowners and farmers, researchers, forecasters, and emergency management personnel, in addition to NWS. This modernization effort will strengthen forecasting tools to predict and provide real-time, viable flood information, allowing Iowa's families and businesses to prepare for and stay safe during floods. It will also support local emergency operations and rapid response to flood disaster situations when every minute counts.

future flood events. As all current and future hydrologic information garnered by IFC through these innovative technologies flows to NWS, this project will ultimately improve the federal government's own research, data mapping, and response capabilities.

I strongly urge the Subcommittee to include this community project funding request in the FY 23 Commerce, Justice, Science, & Related Agencies Appropriations bill. This critical funding will allow vulnerable communities in Iowa to respond quickly to impending flood events and increase mitigation efforts, preventing the billions of dollars in potential damages and possibly saving lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ashley Hinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress
Committee on Appropriations