

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

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Homeland
Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations,
Subcommittee on Homeland
Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

As you craft the fiscal year 2023 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, I respectfully request that you include \$1,725,000 in community project funding for the 5th Avenue Gatewell and Pump Station Flood Mitigation Project, located at 101 Street SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401.

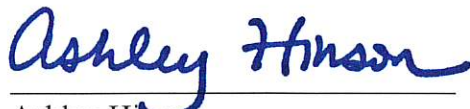
This project will support the City of Cedar Rapids' disaster mitigation efforts to help prepare for the next flood. Cedar Rapids has been hit hard by disasters, including the August 2020 Derecho and several major flooding events over recent decades. As such, the city knows all too well the important role mitigation plays when it comes to saving lives, businesses, property, and taxpayer dollars.

Cedar Rapids has made strides in its efforts to prepare for and respond to these events. This funding will invest in mitigation efforts by constructing a gate and pumping structure along the Cedar River, which flows directly through the city center. The funding will also be used to purchase pumps to prevent the Cedar River from backing up and overflowing into the community. This gate system will allow the city to quickly open and close it, diverting the flow of storm water, controlling surges, and preventing underground flooding that has plagued the city in storms past. Following the 2008 flood, the National Weather Service cited this particular challenge as "a key contributor to the crest at Cedar Rapids," prompting the city to invest in infrastructure to pump water out of the city.

In addition to the disaster mitigation and management potential of this project, the certainty provided by increased flood protection and reduced risk will help bolster opportunities for economic development in the city. Due to the risk of flooding, business owners and resident have been cautious to invest in certain parts of the city without proper flood protection in place. However, if the city is able to move forward with the 5th Avenue Gatewell and Pump Station, these investment opportunities will open up. Without a doubt, this project will bring increased certainty and safety to the city, spurring investment in the downtown community area.

This project has robust support from the City of Cedar Rapids and the greater metropolitan community. I strongly urge the Committee to include this community project funding request in the FY23 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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

Ashley Hinson

Member of Congress

Committee on Appropriations