

Congress of the United States
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MIKE BOST
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VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
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March 17, 2026

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

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$450,000 for the West Salem Water Tower Lead Paint Abatement project in West Salem, Illinois in fiscal year 2027.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Village of West Salem, IL, located at 106 E South St PO Box 456 West Salem, IL 62476.

The proposed project will consist of the abatement of the lead paint on the Village's Water Tower. The project would like to remove the lead paint from the interior and exterior of a 50,000-gallon elevated water tank to ensure our community has clean, safe drinking water. The project will erect a full containment shroud and sandblast the entire exterior area. The village will then apply a full coat of zinc primer, a full coat of epoxy, and one full coat of polyurethane. On the interior, they will remove the existing paint and apply a new interior coating. All waste generated by these activities will be properly disposed of in accordance with EPA regulations.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits. The water tower is located on the town square and right next to a playground. The water tower is over seventy years old. In the Spring of 2023, the Village completed routine maintenance, which included sandblasting and some repainting, on the tank. During that process paint chips fell to the ground, those chips were tested and found to contain lead. Further testing determined that the water tower had previously been painted with lead paint. This project is a good use of taxpayer money by ensuring the community has safe drinking water.

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 neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Mike Bost
Member of Congress