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MIKE BOST
12TH DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
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May 9, 2024

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 \$598,592 for the Village of Hecker Sidewalk Expansion and Renovation Project in Hecker, IL in fiscal year 2025.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Village of Hecker, located at 151 West Monroe St, Hecker, IL 62248.

The proposed project aims to repair and expand sidewalks for both safety concerns and to increase commercial competitiveness. The mayor and trustees are excited for additional growth and job creation through commercial, and eventually industrial industries. The Village of Hecker recently extended its water and sewer mains to expand Hecker's Commercial Corridor further south along the I-159 highway. This move is the first of a series planned to make their Commercial Corridor more viable and accessible to traffic travelling on I-159 and I-156. The village's strategic location along LI Rte. 159 and LI Rte. 156, will be leveraged to attract new businesses and job creation.

The project will begin at the Hecker Postal Service Office along I-156. The sidewalk will extend 330 ft east to Hecker's downtown square (intersection of I-156 and I-159). The sidewalk will then continue south along I-159 toward Hecker's commercial development area. The proposed sidewalk will provide safe walkable pathways throughout Hecker's commercial corridor. The project will include concrete driveway aprons/entries to streets or businesses the new sidewalks cross to prevent impeding access to those locations for vehicles. There is currently no sidewalk, which leads individuals to walking on the shoulder or avoiding the area.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to have the following benefits. The goal of the County and its Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is to decrease the amount of residents dependent on jobs far removed from Monroe County. Additionally, one of Monroe County EDC's objectives for the area is to support and optimize development along IL-159. Increasing walkability in Hecker could result in more businesses and residents moving to the village. Monroe County has been seeing more interest in investments, so providing Hecker an opportunity to capitalize on this momentum would be huge for the village.

By increasing efforts to attract more businesses to Monroe County the county and municipalities can create more jobs locally, which is the biggest focus of all regional goals. An added benefit to taking advantage of the shifting economic and logistical climate would be increased taxes for Monroe County municipalities and the State of Illinois as less people would need to commute to Missouri for work. The

regional area of Monroe County is a market with high consumer spending demand but much of the businesses that fulfill this demand are not located in the county or local municipalities, generally in Missouri. According to Opportunity Insights, consumer spending in Monroe County was up 30.9% compared to usual. This shows there is a strong market for consumer goods, but when compared to other statistics there is a lack of willingness to invest in economic development projects in this area since Missouri is perceived as more competitive. Hecker's sidewalk project will help attract more commercial and heavy industry investments to the area.

This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C.5305(a)(1).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Bost", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Bost
Member of Congress