

Good afternoon members of the Appropriations committee. I appreciate the opportunity to testify today and highlight the importance of the community project funding requests I submitted on behalf of Pennsylvania's 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional district. These requests cover a broad range of important priorities.

It is critical we keep our communities, and those protecting them, safe. Within the Commerce, Justice, Science bill I have requested two community project funding requests. This includes funding to improve the communications system for South Beaver Township Police Department that would allow these officers to communicate amongst each other and with other personnel during an emergency, which is not always possible. Additionally, I have requested funding for body worn cameras for a number of municipal police departments within my congressional district. These cameras help increase transparency and accountability and are frequently mentioned when I talk with police chiefs and officers back home.

Water infrastructure is critical to ensuring Pennsylvanians have safe water to drink and protecting our roads and homes from potentially damaging water line breaks. My CPF requests for this year include two proposals that would bolster the security of my constituents' water, including upgrading filter material in Creswell Heights and new treatment plant basin covers for the Borough of Midland. Additionally, I have requested funding to replace a faulty waterline in my district that frequently breaks, endangering homes and the local community. This waterline serves a number of public facilities, including an elementary school and the Center Township municipal complex, housing the police department and other emergency services.

I have submitted five Economic Development Initiative projects for the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development projects for consideration as well. These include the rehabilitation of a train station into a community center in Coraopolis, which would help increase development of main commercial corridor and serve as a nexus between multiple trail systems. A burgeoning economic strength for Western Pennsylvania is additive manufacturing and Neighborhood 91 – a coalition of companies, universities, and Pittsburgh International Airport – is leading the way. I have submitted a request for seed money to help provide a shared equipment fund to bring in additional companies and train more workers. Another important project in my district is the Millvale Ecodistrict Clean Energy Initiative, building out commercial properties with an emphasis on worker development and renewable energy. As our communities and local economies continue to recover from the pandemic, it is imperative we provide for the least fortunate, and I have submitted a proposal to complete rehabilitation work on a men's shelter in Beaver County. Lastly, the pandemic has emphasized the importance of public outdoor spaces. That is why I have submitted a proposal to finish construction on the Franklin Avenue Park in Aliquippa, PA. This is a historically underserved community, and this scenic park will not only provide recreational opportunities for children but also educate them about our region and environmental issues as well.

This range of projects enjoys strong support with their communities and local leaders and represent a few key areas of agreement: the importance of fostering economic opportunity, keeping our communities safe, and improving our infrastructure. I urge the committee give these projects their due consideration and would be happy to provide any additional or supplementary materials that may be helpful.