

**H. MORGAN GRIFFITH**  
9TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS  
REPUBLICAN LEADER

ENERGY

HEALTH

[www.morgangriffith.house.gov](http://www.morgangriffith.house.gov)



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4069

2202 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3861 PHONE  
(202) 225-0076 FAX

323 WEST MAIN STREET  
ABINGDON, VA 24210  
(276) 525-1405 PHONE  
(276) 525-1444 FAX

17 WEST MAIN STREET  
CHRISTIANSBURG, VA 24073  
(540) 381-5671 PHONE  
(540) 381-5675 FAX

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the paving of two adjoining sections of the Coalfields Expressway (U.S. Route 121) – U.S. 121/U.S. 460 Intersection and Hawk’s Nest – for fiscal year 2023. Both portions of the route are located in Buchanan County, Virginia. Sponsoring this project is the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority (P.O. Box 1060, 527 East Main Street, Lebanon, Virginia 24266).

Funding would be used for design and construction to widen a 2.21-mile section of the Coalfields Expressway to four-lanes. Right-of-way has already been acquired and rough grading has already been performed for these lanes. This project will connect the region with roads such as U.S. Route 460 (Corridor Q), which is scheduled to open from Kentucky to Grundy, Virginia by 2027.

The Coalfields Expressway – a designated Congressional High Priority Corridor – is a proposed four-lane (in its entirety), limited-access highway that will provide a modern, safe, and efficient transportation artery through the coalfields region of far Southwest Virginia and southern West Virginia.

This project is adjacent to the existing Southern Gap industrial park. Despite being Buchanan County’s premiere economic development location, the site lacks access to a four-lane highway, a prerequisite for many industrial facilities. Providing a four-lane highway will significantly improve the marketability of this site.

It is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars since completion of this highway will provide a much needed and more efficient pathway through the coalfields region of Southwest Virginia and Southern West Virginia. By providing safe and rapid access to communities along the corridor, it will greatly improve interstate commerce between disadvantaged portions of Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. Paving this portion specifically will provide a significant boost to the marketability of a highly distressed county. As an area impacted by economic depression with the exit of much of the coal industry, Southwest Virginia stands to benefit greatly from increased connectivity with our surrounding states.

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

Sincerely,



H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress