

H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

9TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:

OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
REPUBLICAN LEADER

ENERGY

HEALTH

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

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April 29, 2021

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 a pre-engineering study along a portion of U.S. Route 121, the Coalfields Expressway, in Buchanan County, Virginia for fiscal year 2022.

Sponsoring this project is the Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority (P.O. Box 1060, 527 East Main Street, Lebanon, Virginia 24266).

Funding would be used to conduct pre-engineering work on a targeted portion of the Coalfields Expressway – a Congressional High Priority Corridor – for location analysis and engineering to assist with the planning, budgeting, and design of the Elkins and Rockhouse sections of the proposed highway. The project will define survey alignment data as well as evaluate needed environmental work. This information will then be used to develop a more comprehensive construction planning level estimate for these two segments. The work is needed to better plan and budget for the construction of these two segments, which are critical to the overall U.S. Route 121 project.

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. As an area ravaged 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.

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I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in either of these projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Morgan Griffith".

H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress