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May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding in the amount of \$7,000,000.00 for the Corridor Q - U.S. 460 Connector Phase II Paving Project 4th Lane in fiscal year 2026. The funding for this project will be used for design, construction, and oversight to add additional lanes to approximately four (4) miles of U.S. 460 (Corridor Q) from the intersection with Virginia Route 80 near the Breaks Interstate Park to the intersection of Virginia Route 609, to promote economic development of this coal-impacted, economically distressed community and tourism at the Breaks Interstate Park.

The entity to receive this funding is Virginia Coalfields Expressway Authority, with offices located at 527 E. Main Street, Lebanon, VA 24266.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars because this section of U.S. 460 was completed in 2023 with two paved lanes plus some truck climbing lanes but was rough graded to accommodate a fourth lane in each direction. At the conclusion of the project, and the U.S. 460/121 Poplar Creek Phase A & B sections currently under construction and scheduled to open in 2025 and 2027, the corridor will be a complete four-lane project from Kentucky to the existing U.S. Route 460 in the Town of Grundy, Virginia, while going through the county's Southern Gap development.

Southern Gap is also the location of the county's proposed new consolidated high school, and better four-lane access will greatly assist in the transportation of school children to and from the proposed new school. The Breaks Interstate Park, known as the "Grand Canyon of the South" and operated under interstate compact between the states of Kentucky and Virginia, is the most significant recreational and tourism asset in the region. Having completed four-lane access in either direction will be a significant boost to both Southern Gap and the Breaks Interstate Park.

This project has a Federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in the Surface transportation block grant (23 U.S.C. § 133).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "H. Morgan Griffith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
Member of Congress