The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting $3.0 million in funding for the relocation of approximately 11 miles of county owned water and sewer transmission lines along US 231 in Panama City.

The project sponsor for this project is the Bay County Board of County Commissioners. The project is located along US 231 in Bay County and is necessitated by the separate FDOT sponsored roadway widening initiative.

This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and will provide a direct positive impact for the residents of Bay County. Underground utilities throughout the County are typically located along roadway shoulders, including along US 231 in the area of the project. As the proposed highway widening project will place new roadway above existing utility pipe, these utilities will need to be abandoned or removed and new pipe installed outside of the new roadway. FDOT will not finance the utilities relocation as that infrastructure is owned by the County, which has no option other than to perform the relocation at its own expense. This will require the county to raise utility rates for its customers, many of whom are still recovering from Hurricane Michael.

The specific intent of this funding request is to seek assistance in financing the Design Phase of this project to offset direct county costs, reducing the potential need to pass off costs to financially vulnerable residents.

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

Sincerely,

[Signature]

NEAL P. DUNN  
Member of Congress