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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2402

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

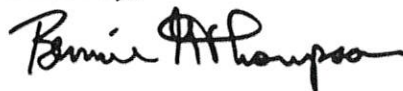
I am requesting funding for the Oakland Blight Elimination and Community Restoration project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Town of Oakland, located at 13863 Hickory Street, Oakland, MS 38948. The funding would be used for the demolition and clearance of hazardous residential and commercial structures to improve public safety and stabilize property values.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it proactively addresses public safety hazards and economic stagnation by removing dangerous, dilapidated structures that pose fire risks and attract illegal activity. By clearing these abandoned properties, the project stabilizes local property values and prevents further neighborhood decline, creating a safer and more attractive environment for residents and potential investors.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is consistent with purposes authorized in 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1), 5305(a)(2), 5305(a)(4), and/or 5305(a)(5).

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

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress