

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2302

April 29, 2022

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$6,912,000 in funding for City of Lakeville Freight Rail Car Storage and Transload Facility in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Lakeville, 20195 Holyoke Avenue, Lakeville, MN 55044.

The funding would be used for the planning, designing, and construction of a freight rail car storage and transload facility. The project would provide primary storage for 60 cars, with additional capacity for 30 cars, for a regular trail load on the system and a 30 car transload facility.

Since 2009, short-line rail operators have been storing unsecured freight rail cars for extended amounts of time along rail lines located adjacent to residential, commercial, and institutional (school campuses) uses. This practice is attracting unauthorized access by the public to the unsecured freight rail cars, creating unsafe and potentially dangerous situations. Relocating freight rail car storage and consolidating freight rail transload operations as proposed, eliminates the incompatible practice of mixing industrial activities in non-industrial areas, and supports economic development within the fastest growing city in Dakota County and the Twin Cities Metropolitan region in the past ten years.

The current practice of storing unsecured freight rail cars along rail tracks located within non-industrial areas oftentimes leads to congestion along the rail tracks due to deteriorating rail infrastructure. This congestion requires frequent movement along the tracks, creating conflicts at multiple highway/rails at-grade crossings. The congestion and moving of cars are a public safety issue as the rail operations temporarily block exclusive access to residential, and institutional properties creating a public safety issue. In addition to negatively impacting the efficiency of the City and County transportation roadway systems, blocking roadway access at highway/rail at-grade crossings can delay first responder services, school busing, mail delivery and waste hauling services.

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

Sincerely,



Angie Craig
Member of Congress