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2ND DISTRICT, MINNESOTA  
  
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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY  
AND COMMERCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMODITY EXCHANGES,  
ENERGY AND CREDIT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES  
AND RISK MANAGEMENT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK  
AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE  
  
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT,  
INVESTIGATIONS & REGULATIONS

April 29, 2022

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$3,000,000 in funding for the Scott County Merriam Junction Regional Trail Improvements project in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is Scott County, located at 200 4th Ave W, Shakopee, MN 55379.

The funding would be used for improving the Merriam Junction Regional Trail which will complete a decade-long initiative to convert an abandoned rail bed to a regional, multi-use, accessible destination trail connecting Scott and Carver Counties across the Minnesota River. The requested funding will allow for the remediation of segments of the Merriam Junction Regional Trail, along the banks of the Minnesota River, which will promote recreational activities and serve pedestrians and outdoor enthusiasts year-round.

The Minnesota River serves as a barrier to accessible outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the Minnesota River Valley in Scott County, despite the large network of state and federal public parks and conservation lands. The accessible trail will run through the Minnesota Valley landscape, along the Minnesota River, and adjacent to both the Louisville Swamp Unit of the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge and the Gifford Lake Unit of the MN Valley State Recreation Area. Finally, the trail project supports pedestrian access from across the western metropolitan area to public and private outdoor recreation venues that have a statewide draw.

This project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it will remediate currently swampy land and washed-out trails, connect Scott and Carver counties to promote outdoor recreation activities to benefit local economies, and provide access to outdoor recreation for local communities.

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

Sincerely,



Angie Craig  
Member of Congress