

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1503

March 31, 2023

Chairwoman Kay Granger
House Appropriations Committee
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

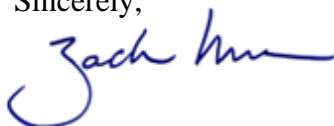
Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting that the Appropriations Committee provide a funding level of \$1,750,000 for Growing a Skilled Commercial Driver Workforce for Rural Southern Iowa. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Indian Hills Community College (IHCC), located at 525 Grandview Avenue, Ottumwa, IA 52501. The funding will be used by Indian Hills Community College (IHCC) to expand and enhance its commercial driver skills training area on its North Campus in Ottumwa, Iowa. At present, participants enrolled in IHCC's six-week commercial driver certificate program take part in behind-the-wheel training using manual transmission semi-trucks on a 390' by 280' gravel pad. The current space is small for effectively training students on essential skills like backing maneuvers, and the terrain can be dusty, muddy, and prone to ruts. This project will enable IHCC to install approximately three acres of PCC pavement in the commercial driver skills training area – expanding the training space by over 20,000 square feet and providing a clean, hard surface similar to the roads and highways that students will drive on once employed. This is a good use of taxpayer money because the United States must ensure there are enough well-trained commercial truck drivers to meet the needs of businesses. The American Trucking Association predicts the nation's shortage of commercial truck drivers could exceed 160,000 if current trends continue. Given the project's focus on meeting a national economic need, we feel this project would be a valuable use of taxpayer funds.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program: 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

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

Sincerely,



Zach Nunn
Member of Congress