

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1805**

March 27, 2026

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

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Columbia Port Commission Rail Expansion, Phase II Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Columbia Port Commission, located at 212 Jackson Street (P.O. Box 367), Columbia, LA 71418.

The funding would be used to complete Phase II of the Rail Expansion Project at the Port of Columbia, Louisiana, including the construction of rail spur track and dedicated loading and laydown areas. These upgrades will transform the Port into a multimodal facility, addressing infrastructure deficiencies that currently limit freight velocity and increase mainline congestion. This investment provides critical multimodal resilience in response to structural concerns at the Columbia Lock & Dam on the Ouachita River, while improving safety by reducing heavy truck traffic on regional highways.

This project represents a responsible use of taxpayer funds because it ensures that prior state investments achieve full economic return and strengthens national freight network efficiency in a historically disadvantaged rural region.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 46 USC 54301.

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

I request you give this project every consideration, consistent with all rules and regulations. Thank you for your attention to this request. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Julia Letlow, Ph.D.

MEMBER OF CONGRESS