

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
H-305 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Wilkeson Gateway Community Resilience - Wilkeson, WA project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Town of Wilkeson, located at 540 Church Street, Wilkeson WA 98396.

The funding would be used to complete the acquisition and development of 139 acres of land adjacent to the town of Wilkeson to form a public recreational site and community hub – including the construction of a pedestrian bridge, trail system, parking area, restroom facility, and environmental improvements. This project would preserve remnants of Wilkeson's coal mining history, such as the Skookum slope mine entrance, fan house, and associated artifacts – allowing the community and visitors to better understand Wilkeson's regional heritage. Funding would additionally support the engineering, permitting, environmental review, and construction contingency required for federal compliance. This project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it would restore recreation opportunities and uplift local industries following the closure of the Fairfax Bridge in April of 2025, which disrupted Wilkeson's access to Mount Rainier National Park and impacted local economic activity. The project would restore managed recreation opportunities, reduce unmanaged impacts to natural resources, and provide long-term outdoor access while bolstering the local economy.

This project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in 42 USC 5305(a)(2).

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

Sincerely,



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress