

DIANA HARSHBARGER
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COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & COMMERCE



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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March 27, 2026

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

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$247,590 in funding for Cocke County for Old Sevierville Highway Improvements in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Cocke County Government, located at 141 Western Plaza, Newport, TN 37821. The funding would be used to resurface 1.89 miles of Old Sevierville Highway from Clevenger Cutoff Road to the Old Highway 411. Cocke is a federally designated distressed County that experienced significant devastation of its public infrastructure following Hurricane Helene in 2024, including Old Sevierville Highway. Old Sevierville Highway or commercial and construction vehicles, as well as tourism, which has accelerated roadway deterioration and contributed to unsafe travel conditions. Additionally, an elementary school and a church are located on connecting and adjacent streets, contributing to high traffic. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will restore the structural integrity of the pavement, improve safety for residents and commercial vehicles, and ensure continued reliable access for both the surrounding community and tourists to the region.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diana Harshbarger".

Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress