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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4202

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Government Operations and the
Federal Workforce

May 3, 2024

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

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Thank you for your work on the fiscal year 2025 appropriations legislation. I respectfully request funding for the following project in Tennessee's second congressional district:

Project Name: Emporium Expansion Project

Entity: City of Knoxville

Address: 100 S. Gay Street, Knoxville, TN 37902

Project Description: The City of Knoxville requests \$250,000 in Community Project Funding to support the design, renovation, and installation of an elevator in a historic building leased long-term by the City of Knoxville, the Emporium. Installation of an elevator will promote connectivity between Gay Street (primary street through Downtown Knoxville) and lower Jackson Avenue (Old City) that has been closed off to the mobility impaired since 1919. The streetscape was altered due to the construction of a viaduct over the railroad tracks which raised the entrance to many Gay Street buildings to the second floor. The elevator will be equipped with features to allow access by wheelchairs or those with sensory impairments. The budget includes design, removal of architectural barriers, construction to accommodate an elevator, necessary permits, and the purchase of an elevator.

Project Justification: For 18 years, the Emporium has acted as a robust economic development tool for Downtown Knoxville by attracting businesses and foot traffic. Now that much-needed infrastructure works such as a streetscape, replacement of the Gay Street viaduct, and the rebuilding of the Jackson Avenue viaduct are complete, the city can finally realize the full economic potential of the Emporium project. This capital project will provide vertical connectivity from Gay Street to the Old City, transform a basement space into a usable area, and activate the underground sidewalk. Combined, the project's components will: generate positive economic benefits in jobs, tourism, nightlife; improve public safety by beautifying a currently blighted alley; promote connectivity and accessibility via an elevator; improve walkability; and attract the 25-54-year-old demographic by contributing to Knoxville's cultural landscape.

Federal Nexus: 42 USC 530 5(a)(2)

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in the above project. Thank you again for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tim Burchett,
Member of Congress