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

HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
GENERAL FARM COMMODITIES  
AND RISK MANAGEMENT  
HOUSE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE  
CHAIRMAN  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ENTERPRISE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RULES

March 20, 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  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding to provide \$1,936,576 for Berrien County to construct a 300-foot guyed radio communications tower to improve emergency communications coverage and provide system redundancy for law enforcement, fire, EMS, and 911 operations across the county.

This is an appropriate use of taxpayer's funds because reliable radio communications are essential for coordinating emergency response among law enforcement, fire departments, emergency medical services, and 911 dispatch. Berrien County currently faces vulnerabilities within its communications system that can result in limited coverage and reduced redundancy during emergencies. The proposed tower will significantly improve radio coverage across the county while providing critical system redundancy to ensure communications remain operational during severe weather events, natural disasters, and other emergency situations. In rural communities such as Berrien County, where first responders often operate across large geographic areas, reliable communications are essential to ensuring quick response times and effective coordination between agencies. This project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 614 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5196c), as amended by section 202 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (9/11 Act). I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Austin Scott

Member of Congress