

ERIN HOUCHIN
9TH DISTRICT - INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
COMMITTEE ON RULES
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1409

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March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Emergency Radio Communications Critical Improvements in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Washington County 9-1-1 within the Sheriff's Department, located at 801 Jackson Street, Salem, IN 47167.

The funding would be used for upgrading technology on two existing radio towers and radio programming for all Washington County emergency services. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because Washington County operates only two radio towers for a 514-square-mile county with varied terrain including steep hills and deep ravines, resulting in dangerous communication gaps where emergency responders cannot hear dispatch and dispatch cannot hear responders; adequate emergency radio communications are critical for the safety of all residents and emergency personnel during routine operations, emergency situations, and disaster events.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by it under section 1701(b)(9) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(9)).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Erin Houchin
Member of Congress