

MADELEINE DEAN  
4TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

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Congress of the United States  
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March 20, 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 Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Bar Screen Replacement and Upgrades Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is County of Berks, PA located at 633 Court Street, Reading, PA 19601.

The funding would be used to support critical upgrades at Berks County's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), which serves thousands of residents. The project will modernize the facility's bar screen and replace the roof on its press garage, which houses essential equipment used in the final stage of wastewater treatment to prepare waste for disposal. The press garage roof has reached the end of its service life and has experienced several leaks, creating operational risks and the likelihood of further deterioration. Replacing the roof will protect this critical equipment and ensure continued plant operations. The project will also install a roof access hatch, improving safe access for County employees. Together, these upgrades will strengthen the reliability and resilience of essential wastewater infrastructure in one of Pennsylvania's most populous counties..

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it addresses a critical failure point in the treatment system. The facility was originally designed with two bar screens to ensure operational redundancy, but only one is currently functional because the second unit has reached the end of its service life. Replacing the failed unit and upgrading associated equipment will restore redundancy and prevent potential service interruptions that could occur if the remaining unit fails. By proactively investing in necessary infrastructure upgrades, the County can ensure reliable wastewater treatment, protect local waterways, and avoid more costly emergency repairs or system failures in the future..

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq.

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 "Madeleine Dean". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "M".

Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress