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**Congress of the United States**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND  
INFRASTRUCTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION,  
VICE RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES  
AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COUNTERTERRORISM  
AND INTELLIGENCE

March 20, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$1,920,000.00 in funding for the Elmwood Park Domestic Water Main Replacement Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Borough of Elmwood Park located at 182 Market St, Elmwood Park, NJ, 07407.

The Elmwood Park Domestic Water Main Replacement Project will replace approximately 12,152 linear feet of deteriorated water main pipes in the Borough. The existing system, which is 75 years old, is composed of galvanized steel pipes that have been documented to contain traces of lead and asbestos. Additionally, given the age of the neighborhood's water distribution system, the system has reached the end of its functional lifespan. The project will remove these aging water mains and install modern, safe, and durable water infrastructure that aligns with State requirements, and supports the Borough's growing needs.

Findings showing trace amounts of lead and asbestos on the galvanized steel pipes pose a long-term risk to water quality and public health. The presence of lead and asbestos traces, even at low levels, creates a public health risk for the public. Additionally, the existing galvanized pipes are prone to corrosion, leaks, and sediment buildup which reduces water pressure, increases maintenance costs, and heightens the risk of contamination, thereby jeopardizing the reliability of the current water main service lines.

The purpose of this project is to provide safe and dependable water for the community. By modernizing the Borough's aging watermain pipes, Elmwood will be able to improve public health and safety through the removal of lead, asbestos, and metallic contaminants from the Borough's water service lines. Replacing the deteriorated mains will also significantly reduce the likelihood of service disruptions, water main breaks, and emergency repairs, ensuring a more reliable and resilient water supply for the residents of NJ-9.

The proposed project is a good use of taxpayer funds because it will deliver direct benefits to NJ-09 by protecting families from lead and asbestos exposure, improve critical drinking water infrastructure, and ensure that residents have access to safe and reliable drinking water. The Elmwood Park Domestic Watermain Replacement Project provides a long-term, community-wide benefit to community members of NJ-9 by protecting vulnerable populations, improving essential public service, and reinforcing the districts' commitment to safe, sustainable, and modern infrastructure.

The project complies with the federal nexus, as the project is a drinking water project found within Section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the water transmission and delivery project under 40 CFR 35.3520(b)(2)(ii).

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family have any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nellie Pou". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "N".

Nellie Pou  
Member of Congress  
9th Congressional District of New Jersey