

April 4, 2025

The Honorable Greg Murphy, M.D. United States House of Representatives 407 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Murphy:

As Congress turns in earnest to fiscal year 2026 appropriations, the City of Havelock respectfully requests your assistance in securing \$6,000,000 in the Transportation-Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funding bill, in the Economic Development Initiatives section of the HUD title, for the City's McCotter Canal Improvement. Havelock will be grateful for this support.

The City would use this funding to design and construct necessary improvements to the McCotter Canal that drains the United States Forest Service's Croatan National Forest and the City's southeastern neighborhoods, in which working families, veterans, members of the military, and military spouses reside. Constructed more than 50 years ago, the canal includes critical Havelock drinking-water infrastructure, but was built with an ill-advised 90-degree turn in it that exacerbates flooding in adjacent neighborhoods and commercial entities east of U.S. Highway 70. Since 2017, the City has worked with a private-sector engineering consulting firm to find a long-term solution to the problem, expending significant sums in the process, and is seeking these federal economic development funds to correct the canal's deficiencies.

Thank you for considering the City's request.

Sincerely,

William L. Lewis, Jr.

Mayor

cc: Havelock Governing Body