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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3605**

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET

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DEPUTY WHIP

COMMISSIONER  
NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION  
ON EMERGING BIOTECHNOLOGY

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
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 Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$32,400,000 in funding for the McClellan Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (MKARNS) Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The funding would be used to address the MKARNS critical maintenance backlog.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the MKARNS provides significant economic benefits to Oklahoma and the twelve-state region (OK, AR, KS, TX, CO, MO, NE, MN, SD, MT, and ID) that it serves. Tulsa District of the Army Corps of Engineers have identified a critical backlog of maintenance needs on the MKARNS. Any one of these critical maintenance items has a 50 percent probability of failure within the next 5 years. If any of these items fail, it will affect or potentially shut down the entire MKARNS. The Army Corps of Engineers lacks a sufficient budget to maintain the infrastructure of the inland waterway system.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by the *Rivers and Harbors Act* (Public Law 79-525) and *An Act to Change the Name of Certain Projects for Navigation and Other Purposes on the Arkansas River* (Public Law 91-649).

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

Sincerely,



Stephanie Bice  
Member of Congress