

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2207

April 29, 2022

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

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

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

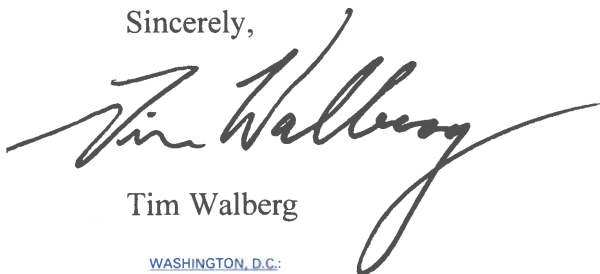
I am requesting funding for Tibbits Opera House in fiscal year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Tibbits Opera Foundation & Arts Council, Inc. located at 14 S. Hanchett St., Coldwater, MI 49036.

The funding would be used to replace critical plumbing, mechanical and electric infrastructure, and restroom facilities, bringing them up to building and ADA code for a 500-seat public building. This project represents a critical piece of the overall \$7 million renovation and restoration of the historic Tibbits Opera House in Coldwater, Michigan, an essential community facility, and important economic and cultural asset for Branch County. The project is a critical piece of a much larger effort to completely renovate and restore the interior of the Tibbits Opera House, built in 1882. Tibbits serves a unique and rural community, and contributes to the economic health of a historic downtown. Tibbits, with its grand architecture, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and represents an outstanding and rare example of Victorian architecture and craftsmanship worthy of preservation. Tibbits is one of the major tourism attractions in the area, attracting over 30,000 patrons annually with an economic impact of over \$1.2 million according to Americans for the Arts studies. To continue to effectively serve the community Tibbits must address the inadequacy of its facilities, including insufficient water and sewer capacity, ineffective mechanical systems, out-of-date and limited restroom facilities, and limited accessibility.

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

Sincerely,



Tim Walberg