TIM WALBERG
5TH DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

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

March 31, 2023

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

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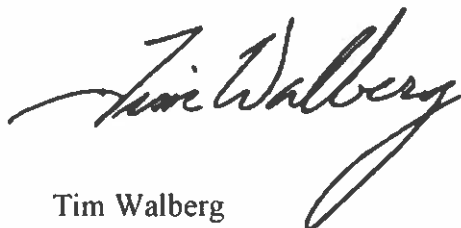Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Niles-Buchanan Trail Connection Project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the United Way of Southwest Michigan, located at 2015 Lakeview Avenue, St. Joseph, MI 49085. The funding would be used to construct a 4.2 mile connector trail project in Southwest Michigan that will connect the cities of Niles and Buchanan in Berrien County, Michigan. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because there is a gap in the Lake Michigan coastal trail network in Berrien County. The project would connect trails that extend to multiple states and would provide a safe alternative transportation option, especially for the low-income residents of Niles and Buchanan. Non-motorized infrastructure is a necessary component of community structure and provides solutions for safe alternative transportation, recreation, social cohesion, and health-improvement. The economic benefits include increasing tax revenue, real estate values, retaining and attracting businesses, retaining and attracting residents, and increasing tourist spending.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program: 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(1).

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

Sincerely,

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress