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March 11, 2026

Congressman Mike Ezell
Washington, DC Office
443 Cannon - House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Ezell,

Congratulations on your big win! We are so grateful that the Mississippi Gulf Coast will continue to benefit from your strong leadership and advocacy in Washington.

The City Council is writing to request your support for the City of Diamondhead's application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Community Project Funding Grant Program. The city is requesting \$8.0 million in direct funding to support the Modernization of Utility Infrastructure Project, which will repair and replace critical utility lines that have become exposed due to decades of ditch erosion.

Much of Diamondhead's infrastructure is now more than 50 years old and is showing significant signs of deterioration. As erosion has progressed over time, water and sewer lines that were once safely buried have become exposed along drainage ditches throughout the city. These vulnerable pipes are increasingly susceptible to damage and failure. Without timely repair and stabilization, their continued deterioration could lead to major infrastructure failures, costly emergency repairs, and potential environmental and public health impacts.

Because Diamondhead's drainage system ultimately feeds into Rotten Bayou, the Jordan River, and the Mississippi Sound, protecting these utility lines is also essential to safeguarding the coastal waters and ecosystems that are vital to the Gulf Coast.

Completion of this project will strengthen water and sewer lines throughout the city, stabilize eroding ditch banks, and remove sediment from the drainage system. The City of Diamondhead has consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to drainage improvements and has successfully secured and invested more than \$3.6 million in grant funding for related projects. This project represents the next critical step in implementing the city's long-term drainage and infrastructure plan, and the City of Diamondhead is prepared to move forward with these improvements as soon as funding becomes available.

As the Mississippi Gulf Coast continues to experience steady population growth, communities like Diamondhead are welcoming new residents drawn by the region's quality of life and coastal setting. Ensuring that our aging infrastructure can safely support this growth is essential to maintaining the health, safety, and environmental integrity of our community.

Without these repairs, continued erosion will expose additional pipes each year, compounding infrastructure risks and significantly increasing future repair costs for the community.

The EPA Community Project Funding Program aligns closely with the needs of our community. With this support, Diamondhead will be able to protect critical infrastructure, improve drainage resilience, and safeguard the surrounding waterways that are so vital to the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

The City Council of Diamondhead strongly supports this request and appreciates your consideration. This project represents a critical investment in protecting essential infrastructure and the environmental health of our growing coastal community.

Please know how grateful we are for your time, consideration, and continued support.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Anna Liese'.

Anna Liese
Mayor

On behalf of the Diamondhead City Council