

**BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.**

36TH DISTRICT, TEXAS  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4336**

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March 20, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, the Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Upper Jasper County Hurricane Evacuation Route Water Line Resilience Project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity receiving funding for this project is the Upper Jasper County Water Authority, located at 269 County Rd 080, Jasper, TX 75951. The funding would be used to replace and upgrade collapsing water distribution infrastructure along State Highway 63, a designated hurricane evacuation route serving Upper Jasper County and surrounding rural communities. The project will strengthen the reliability and functionality of this corridor by replacing aging, failure-prone water lines that repeatedly rupture after roadway repairs, rendering sections of the evacuation route inoperable during emergencies.

The EPA has recognized the urgency and has already conducted a site visit and will begin pre-engineering for the project.

The proposed improvements include replacing approximately 25,000 linear feet of deteriorated 6-inch and 8-inch cast-iron and asbestos-cement water lines with new PVC C900 pressure-rated water lines, installing associated fittings, valves, and fire hydrants, and constructing new bores and tie-ins at roadway crossings. The project corridor spans two segments: South State Highway 63, from County Road 82 to County Road 108, and Central State Highway 63, from County Road 82 to County Road 80.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it strengthens critical hurricane-evacuation route infrastructure serving both daily community needs and regional emergency preparedness. Reliable water service along a hurricane evacuation corridor supports public safety, emergency response, and continuity of operations during disaster events. Upper Jasper County averages 38 boil-water notices per year, one of the highest rates in the country.

Proactively replacing deteriorated lines reduces the likelihood of costly emergency repairs under crisis conditions and minimizes long-term maintenance expenses. Federal investment allows UJCWA to enhance system resilience, protect public health, and ensure dependable service during both routine operations and emergency evacuations, delivering measurable long-term value to taxpayers.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by Title VI of the Clean Water Act, 33 U.S.C 1381 et seq. I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Babin", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the left of a vertical line that extends downwards.

Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress

