



OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL CHIEF CYRUS BEN

101 Industrial Road • P.O. Box 6010 • Choctaw, Mississippi 39350

Phone: (601) 656-5251 • Fax: (601) 650-1606

April 19, 2022

The Honorable Michael Guest
United States Representative
418 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Guest,

On behalf of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, I write to express our support for the MBCI Tucker Potable Water Project receiving \$3 million in Community Project Funding in the FY23 Interior Appropriations bill.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians operates and maintains a potable water system that serves all Tribal members living on reservation lands in the Tucker community of Neshoba County. The Tucker system, which was constructed in 2002 and provides drinking water to approximately 200 homes, is regulated by EPA under the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Due to highly corrosive contamination of the ground water extracted from aquifers, the Tucker plant has suffered considerable degradation and is in dire need of replacement. Put plainly, the plant is rusting away and there is no alternate source of water in this community. If the plant goes down, there is no drinking water available for backup service which would be an immediate threat to the human health.

The Tribe seeks to replace the existing unreliable water treatment plant with a new 300 gallon per minute (GPM) plant. The system would consist of aeration, chemical dosing, and clarification, followed by pressure filtration, chlorination, and fluoridation. An additional 300 GPM well would be added as part of this project to provide for source redundancy. The Tribe is willing to carry out this project through completion and will be able to obligate all received funds within 12 months of the bill's enactment.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians strongly supports the MBCI Tucker Potable Water Project and we urge you to include \$3 million in Community Project Funding for it in the FY23 Interior Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Cyrus Ben
Tribal Chief