



March 22, 2025

The Honorable Michael Guest  
450 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20531

RE: FY26 Community Project Funding Request – Brandon, MS – Water Tower & Distribution Project

Dear Congressman Guest:

Please find enclosed the City of Brandon's FY26 Community Project Funding request for the City of Brandon's Cornerstone Water Tank and Distribution Project. As mayor of Brandon, I want to express our gratitude for your support of our pursuit of State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) funding.

This funding request is critical toward ensuring that the City of Brandon continues to provide safe, reliable, clean, and high-quality water in an equitable manner to all our residents.

Brandon has been very proactive over the past 10 years in approaching the water supply challenges of a 200 year old city. In 2017 the city had a capacity rating of 96.8% (meaning the city used nearly 100% of available well water daily) from the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH). The city took an aggressive and proactive approach over the next four years by investing over \$5 million into the system and by 2021, the rating improved to a capacity of 64.1%.

This approach has not ended. The city is continuing to proceed forward with an additional \$9 million in investment into the system with new waterlines, a well and a proposed 750,000 gallon tank. This work is currently being funded through the State Revolving Loan Fund and through a USACE Section 592 grant. Runaway construction cost in this economic environment has greatly diminished our ability to further expand our system. Due to the increase in construction costs, the city is requesting assistance through the STAG program to help with completing these much-needed projects. This area of the city (north east quadrant) is currently only served by water from one well over a mile away, and this project is critical to our goal of ensuring safe and reliable drinking water by providing a constantly reliable water supply necessary in a modern, looped water main system.

Thank you for your continued leadership in Congress, and your continued support of the City of Brandon.

Sincerely,

Mayor Butch Lee, CPM, CMOCity of Brandon





March 24, 2025

The Honorable Michael Guest  
450 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20531

RE: FY26 Community Project Funding Request – Brandon, MS – Cornerstone Water Tank & Distribution Project

Dear Congressman Guest,

Thank you for your strong leadership in Congress serving our state and country. I am pleased to offer the full support of Rankin First Economic Development Authority for the City of Brandon's FY 2026 Community Project Funding Request for the Cornerstone Water Tank and Distribution project.

The City of Brandon is the fastest growing city in Rankin County, and it is evident just from driving through this great city and county how much growth has occurred. Growth of this magnitude also brings needs for improvements in infrastructure in order to maintain the wonderful quality of life that the residents have become accustomed to.

While the city has done a tremendous job over the past five years to continue to make improvements to their water system, it is imperative that we continue this progress with the completion of this existing project and the beginning of new projects to ensure that our water infrastructure can meet the needs of every resident. The city has already spent several million dollars over recent years in this area of the city to ensure these needs are met. We fully support the continuation and completion of this project through this funding request. We are grateful for your past support of the City of Brandon and Rankin County, and believe this funding request is vital to continue to provide safe, reliable drinking water to this rapidly developing area of the City of Brandon.

Thank you for considering the City of Brandon's application for funding. We offer our fullest and strongest support for this project. If you have any questions or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 601-825-5335.

Sincerely,

Tom Troxler  
Executive Director

Ambiance

March 21, 2025

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: FY 2026 Community Project Funding Request – Brandon, MS - Cornerstone Water Tank and Distribution project

Dear Senator Hyde-Smith:

Thank you for your leadership serving our district and country in Congress. I am writing on behalf of the Ambiance Homeowners Association, a fully developed subdivision inside the city of Brandon's city limits. The Ambiance Homeowners Association is comprised of over 130 homes and fully supports the City of Brandon's FY26 Community Project Funding Request for the Cornerstone Water Tank & Distribution project.

Our subdivision is served from one direction by a 6" main coming through the Cornerstone subdivision. For security, fire safety and reliability, we appreciate the City of Brandon being proactive in working to improve our water system. In a city which has grown by 10,000 residents in the last eight years, just inside the city alone, and there is a true need to continue the modernization of our water system and improve it at every opportunity.

The rapid growth of Brandon, MS and the surrounding community underscores the importance of having a water infrastructure that can adequately support every resident. Our subdivision is located on the very northern edge of the city, and currently only has water being transmitted to our subdivision from one direction. We are in desperate need of having a source of water from another direction. Anytime the existing waterline may have a break or require maintenance work, our subdivision is without water. This project will help provide a necessary "loop" for our water system in order to ensure that our subdivision has access to clean water during these breaks and scheduled maintenance events, therefore improving the resilience of the system against shortages and emergencies. The project also provides the infrastructure necessary to support further economic development in the MS Hwy 471 north area. Finishing this project is critical to ensuring safe, reliable drinking water to our residents.

Thank you for considering the city of Brandon's application for funding.

Sincerely,



Lori Beth Smith, Secretary  
Ambiance Homeowners Association