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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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www.chrissmith.house.gov

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
1135 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I write to you today to respectfully request that funding for the replacement of the **Route 33 Bridge Over the Millstone River** be included in the 2021 Surface Transportation Authorization legislation. The project is located in my district at Route 33 milepost 19.8 in Millstone Township, New Jersey, and the sponsor is the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

The purpose of this project is to replace the current bridge which was built in 1926 and has been deemed structurally deficient.

At 95 years old, this structure is showing its age—evidence of the years of wear and tear connecting the Shore area with Trenton, the State Capital. In addition to the many businesses located along the roadway, Route 33 is also home to many agricultural and horse farms, which necessitate heavy equipment using the roads. Additionally, as a result of the online shopping boom brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, there are thousands of square feet of warehouse space currently under construction in the immediate vicinity of the bridge. Once completed, that storage space will bring with it a marked increase in heavy truck traffic that will stress and deteriorate the aged structure even more.

The **Route 33 Bridge Over the Millstone River** replacement project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars as it will replace a dangerous structure with a safer and more sound thoroughfare which will effectively service the rural farms, businesses of all sizes, residents and many communities.

I appreciate the Committee's due consideration of this project and all Member Designated Projects submitted as part of the Surface Transportation Authorization Legislation.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family have any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress