

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Steve Womack
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,
and Urban Development
House Committee on Appropriations
2000 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing,
and Urban Development
House Committee on Appropriations
11036 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Womack and Ranking Member Quigley:

I write to you to request \$2,500,000 in Fiscal Year 2025 funding for the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area's Paces Mill/Palisades Rehabilitation project, which is an \$15.8 million-dollar collaborative effort by the Cumberland Community Improvement District and U.S. National Park Service. The Paces Mill Park and Palisades Trail System were first incorporated into the Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area (CRNRA) during the Carter Administration and have remained in their current state ever since. The Cumberland District of Cobb County, where the park and trail are located, was once on the distant outskirts of Atlanta, but has since grown into an economic hub for the state of Georgia with nearly 3,300 businesses including the headquarters for some of the largest businesses in the United States. In all, the district has a \$26.3 billion annual impact on Georgia's economy, and an \$18 billion annual impact on Cobb County's economy.

The Paces Mill/Palisades unit of the park is, in its current state, a relic of an era marked by stagnation. Last year, the committee graciously allocated \$1 million of the requested \$5 million to help fully fund the first phase of the rehabilitation project, which is scheduled to break ground this fall. Once again, I request that we do our part to put federal investment in the park on par with investments made by the private sector in the surrounding area, by investing in the \$9.5 million Phase 2 project, scheduled to break ground in 2025. The funding that I am requesting will be used to further improve the capacity and flow of traffic in the Paces Mill parking lot, mitigate stormwater buildup, and enhance park visitors' experience. The park is still one of the most popular in metro Atlanta, as evidenced by the tremendous amount of community support for this project. I look forward to seeing this park improved, and the tremendous recreational, tourism, and commercial benefits it brings to the area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Barry Loudermilk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress