

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1504

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting \$55,000,000 in funding for the Repair Runway 13-31 (VSSB249100) project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the 185th Air Refueling Wing (185 ARW), located at 2920 Headquarters Ave., Sioux City, IA 51111.

The funding would be used for the repair by replacement of the existing 9,002 LF runway, runway shoulders, and aircraft arresting system. The 185 ARW and its mission are crucial to national security and nuclear deterrence. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the 185 ARW needs this replacement to continue its refueling mission into the future.

In 2003, the 185th transitioned from F-16 Fighting Falcons to take on the KC-135 Stratotanker mission with a promise from the Department of Defense that their runway would be replaced. The much heavier KC-135s have taken a toll on the runway designed for lightweight F-16s over the past 20 years and has required waivers and frequent repairs due to the lack of follow-up on the promised investment to replace the runway.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 10 USC, Chapter 169. I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,



Randy Feenstra
Member of Congress