



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Angela
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Witwer
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
N/A
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
City of Eaton Rapids
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
200 S. Main Street Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
-
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Angela Witwer, 76th District
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. The Eaton County Land Bank respectfully requests a \$4 million appropriation from the State of Michigan to support the demolition, environmental remediation, and redevelopment preparation of the long-blighted Horner Mill Site—a deteriorating industrial property that sits at the gateway to the City of Eaton Rapids. This appropriation represents a critical public investment in one of Eaton County's most urgent and long-standing safety, environmental, and economic redevelopment challenges.

This project provides clear and measurable public benefit in the following ways:

1. Protecting Public Health and Safety: The Horner Mill Site contains eight dangerously

decayed structures that have been declared uninhabitable and in violation of multiple local and state codes. These structures pose serious safety threats to nearby residents, emergency responders, and passersby and are frequent sites of unauthorized entry and illegal dumping. Funding will allow for immediate demolition and environmental abatement to eliminate these hazards and restore public safety.

2. Environmental Remediation and Flood Mitigation: Approximately 70% of the site lies within a federally designated floodplain. The project will demolish structures in this area and restore the land to green space, helping to mitigate flood risk, improve stormwater management, and enhance the ecological and visual quality of this highly visible community corridor.

3. Catalyzing Economic and Community Revitalization: The remaining 30% of the parcel holds real promise for future development. Plans include mixed-use housing and small-scale commercial retail aligned with community needs. This appropriation will fund the essential first steps—demolition and site cleanup—that unlock the ability to attract private investment and stimulate tax base growth in a historically disinvested area.

4. Strengthening Local Government Capacity and Regional Equity: The Eaton County Land Bank is a newly formed public entity and currently lacks the financial reserves to take on a project of this magnitude. Without state investment, the community lacks the capacity to eliminate this liability or realize its long-envisioned potential. This appropriation levels the playing field by empowering local government to pursue transformative, community-supported redevelopment that would otherwise remain out of reach.

The project is backed by widespread regional support, including formal resolutions from Eaton County, the City of Eaton Rapids, and Eaton Rapids Township, along with nearly 100 letters of endorsement from residents, businesses, and civic organizations.

This is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars, as it addresses key functions of government: public safety, environmental protection, and community revitalization. It represents a proactive investment that transforms a dangerous liability into a community asset.

Importantly, the funding does not violate Article IV, Section 30 of the Michigan Constitution. All activities will be managed by the Eaton County Land Bank, a public entity, and the funds will be used solely for public purposes—demolition, environmental remediation, and site stabilization of publicly owned land. No funds will be granted to private individuals or entities, and all long-term outcomes will benefit the broader community.

This appropriation is a smart, timely, and transformative investment in the future of Eaton Rapids and Eaton County. It addresses decades of disrepair and disinvestment with a clear, shovel-ready plan for action, rooted in public interest and broad community support

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

4000000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["None"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Local unit government

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Not applicable

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Not applicable

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Not applicable

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

N/A

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

The project is ready to begin as soon as funding is secured, with an expected completion timeline of three to nine months, tentatively October 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes