



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Ken
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Borton
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.
Rep. John Roth
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Kalkaska County Road Commission
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
1049 Island Lake Road, Kalkaska, MI 49646
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
Road Commission Facility
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Facility is located in Rep. John Roth's District 104. Rep. Roth & Rep. Borton (District 105) share Kalkaska County.
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 current Kalkaska County Road Commission Facility is 68 years old and has deteriorated significantly and can no longer meet operational needs. The request funding would improve efficiency, enhance worker safety, reduce local tax burden, and create jobs.
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.

10000000

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:

Fiscal Year 2026

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

Yes

Kalkaska County Road Commission

1049 Island Lake Road
Kalkaska, MI 49646
Telephone: 231.258.2242
Facsimile: 231.258.8205

The Kalkaska County Road Commission is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

April 9, 2025

Representative Ken Borton
S-1389 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Representative John Roth
S-1388 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representatives,

Funding Request for Kalkaska County Road Commission Facility

The Kalkaska County Road Commission is requesting **\$10 million** in state funding to help finance the construction of a much-needed new facility. Kalkaska County is a rural community facing significant economic challenges, yet it plays a vital role in supporting Michigan's tourism industry (Pure Michigan). With a large population of part-time residents and a steady influx of year-round visitors, which additionally impacts our roads, maintaining reliable infrastructure is essential. However, our current budget is stretched thin, making it difficult to advance this project without external support.

Urgency of the request

Our current facility, now **68 years old**, has **deteriorated significantly and can no longer meet our operational needs**. It is too small to house our fleet, requires maintenance work to be performed on the floor beneath vehicles without the aid of hoists—conditions that present serious safety hazards. The building also **lacks proper insulation**, resulting in high operating costs and energy inefficiency. Due to its **age and structural degradation, the facility is at risk of collapse**, posing a severe threat to both personnel and equipment.

A 2019 engineering study determined that constructing a modern, adequately sized facility would require an estimated **\$23 million**. Without dedicated state support, our only alternatives are to **reallocate funds from an already strained budget** or request additional taxes on residents who are already facing financial challenges. We have actively pursued alternative funding sources, including grants, but have not found any viable options. State investment is essential to move this critical project forward and ensure the continued safety and efficiency of our operations.

Economic & Operational Benefits

Securing this funding would:

- ✓ **Improve Efficiency** – A properly sized, equipped, and updated facility would allow us to better maintain our fleet and infrastructure, leading to cost savings and reduced mobilization time improving service.

- ✓ **Enhance Worker Safety** – A new facility would provide the proper equipment, including vehicle hoists and overhead cranes, ensuring a safer working environment for our employees.
- ✓ **Reduce Tax Burden** – State funding would significantly lower the amount we would need to levy from local taxpayers.
- ✓ **Create Jobs** – Construction of the new facility would generate employment opportunities for local workers and businesses.

Without state funding or a tax levy, the only alternative is to further strain our general fund, which would inevitably lead to reduced service levels and negatively impacted road maintenance and overall infrastructure stability.

Investing in a new facility is not only a matter of operational necessity—it is a critical step toward ensuring the safety of our workers, protecting public assets, and supporting the broader economic vitality of our region. We respectfully urge the State of Michigan to consider this funding request and partner with us in addressing the urgent infrastructure needs of Kalkaska County Road Commission. Your support will have a lasting impact on our ability to serve residents, visitors, and the state as a whole.

We urge the state to support this request and help ensure the continued safety, efficiency, and sustainability of Kalkaska County's road maintenance operations.

Motion by Corrado to approve this letter and the chairman to sign on behalf of the board.
Supported by Simpson, 5 Yeas, 0 Nays.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Cox". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike Cox, Chairman
Kalkaska County Road Commission