



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Luke
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Meerman
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:
Blendon Township
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
7161 72nd Ave, Hudsonville, MI 49426
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
The project location is within Blendon Township; the address for the township hall is listed on response #5.
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Luke Meerman, District 89
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. Funds appropriated to Blendon Township would support the township's efforts to strengthen its water security and address water infrastructure limitations that are preventing township growth. This project would allow the township to construct a 1,300 foot 12" water main on Tyler Street, running from East Tyler Pines Ave to 48th Ave. This water main would connect new developments to the water infrastructure system in neighboring Georgetown Township, which has the capacity to support increased demand for years to come.

Residents of Blendon Township live on well water and draw on underground aquifers to provide water to their homes. Recent groundwater studies show declining aquifer levels, which are outpacing the rate of regeneration. Water levels have declined so much that residents have had to lower their wells to retain access to water and as a result, Blendon Township had to make the difficult decision to deny future residential construction, despite there being a strong desire for continued growth.

A rural community in the center of Ottawa County, Blendon Township's population has grown at a slower rate than neighboring municipalities. As a result, these communities have developed water infrastructure systems that support future growth and can even support the increased water demand of Blendon Township. Blendon Township has established an agreement with neighboring Georgetown Township to connect to their water infrastructure system and funds appropriated here would allow this project to proceed, which will lead to new residential developments and future growth. This project would support a critical need not only for the residents of Blendon Township but Ottawa County as a whole. Until a solution is found to the township's water limitation, residential home construction cannot proceed and this is a clear public need. This legislatively directed spending item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution as the purpose of this request is to address a public need.

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.

920000

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 anticipated to begin in the spring of 2026 and conclude by the end of the year.

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

Yes



September 11, 2024

Rep. Luke Meerman
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

Dear Representative Meerman,

On behalf of the Blendon Township Board and our residents, we are requesting consideration for earmark funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure or 2025 State of Michigan Budget for our township.

These funds would help us bring water infrastructure to Blendon Residents, given the Ottawa County groundwater studies that show the declining water levels and increasing salt content in the underground aquifers. Many of our residents have had to lower their wells to access water, and the State does not permit shallow wells for irrigation.

The lack of water infrastructure is hindering the growth of our area in terms of additional housing and commercial developments. It is crucial to address this issue promptly to meet the demands of our current and future residents

For your review, we have included the Water Master Plans from both Blendon Township and Georgetown Township.

Please feel free to get in touch with us for any questions or concerns. I can be reached at (616)-875-7707 extension 101.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Sincerely,

Greg Golembiewski
Blendon Township Manager