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MINNESOTA

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION,  
AND FORESTRY  
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION  
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE  
JUDICIARY  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 17, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and  
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Hoeven  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and  
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chair Baldwin, and Ranking Member Hoeven,

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested in the Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Sincerely,



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Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator

**Klobuchar, Amy(D-MN) Agriculture  
Congressionally Directed Spending Requests**

Recipient Name	Project Purpose	Project Location	Amount Requested (\$000)
Preserve Appletons Heritage, Inc	The funds will to be used to redevelop the historic city hall in need of major and minor repairs. Funds would also be used to make the 2nd floor opera house accessible.	Appleton MN	\$500
Balkan Township	The Township office is part of the Township Public Works Garage building. The building was built in 1934 and requires improvements to comply with current environmental, safety, and accessibility requirements.	Balkan Township MN	\$77
Balkan Township	Funds would be used to design, engineer and construct a fiber network over two square miles connecting 330 households to high-speed internet service.	Balkan Township MN	\$4,620
City of Bigfork	The City of Bigfork is seeking help in securing funding for the needed Bigfork Community Enhancement project. The project entails adding a community strength, fitness and wellness center, public restrooms accessible from the multi-use Bigfork RiverWalk Trail, storage space for the Edge Center for the Arts and Bigfork School locker rooms and related amenities.	Bigfork MN	\$750
City of Chisholm	The proposed new Chisholm Public Safety Facility will relocate the Police and Fire Departments from an old totally deficient 1908 building to an approximate 23,000 square foot facility located on the city owned site of the old wastewater treatment plant. The Chisholm Ambulance service will also relocate to the new facility.	Chisholm MN	\$3,500
City of Cromwell	The City of Cromwell is seeking funding for community facility improvements to city streets, and accessibility improvements to parking lots and the community recreation facility as part of an overall city infrastructure project happening in the City of Cromwell. Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall of 2021 and completed in 2022.	City of Cromwell MN	\$625
City of Ely	The City of Ely has been working to develop a regional trailhead facility at the west entrance to Ely for nearly fifteen years. The project provides a visitors center as well as improves access to the Ely Bloomenson Hospital campus and Ely Ambulance Service. The regional trailhead facility will serve three significant regional trail systems, the Mesabi Trail, David Dill Taconite Trail; both of these start in Grand Rapids, and the Prospector Loop Trail System; a ATV/UTV trail system that connects many communities in the Arrowhead region.	City of Ely MN	\$3,000
West Central Initiative	Funds will be used to acquire farmland for the Farmland Conservation Partnership. Currently there are 2400 available acres identified in three clusters in west central Minnesota. This acreage will initiate a farm incubator program, in partnership with New Roots, a program of Northern Plains Sustainable Agriculture Society, to train and prepare emerging farmers for successful agricultural pursuits. This is modeled after the successful New Roots Farm Incubator near Moorhead, Minnesota.	Clay, Becker, and Otter Tail County MN	\$23,000
Agricultural Utilization Research Institute	The Agriculture Utilization Research Institute (AURI) is proposing to create a publicly available web-based decision aid tool for agriculture producers, processors, and communities that want to develop or utilize renewable natural gas projects. The tool would help assess feedstocks, processing sites, and end users.	Crookston MN	\$225
Ag Innovation Campus	The Ag Innovation Campus will serve as an incubator for agricultural innovations, with a goal to foster new and novel products, create jobs and increase the value of agriculture in the region and state. The AIC will support three crushing lines, each of which can be operated on conventional or specialty soybeans. In addition, the AIC will also be working on other oil seeds, including cover crops, which were cited as a key climate priority in President Biden's address to Congress last month. The AIC team is eager to work with the Biden administration to further promote the use of cover crops via the Ag Innovation Campus.	Crookston MN	\$6,000

Great Plains Institute	Seeking federal funding to assist communities, environmental and agricultural stakeholders to create pilot projects demonstrating how solar deployment can mitigate nitrate contamination and risk.	Dakota, Rock, Lincoln County MN	\$400
City of Dilworth	Demolition and construction of a fire hall serving two cities, three rural townships, and providing mutual aid to all other rural Clay County cities.	Dilworth MN	\$4,875
Ely Area Ambulance Service	EAAS is seeking funding to begin construction of an ambulance station that will provide staff modern living and working conditions.	Ely MN	\$5,500
Minnesota Farmers Union	This program would support the Minnesota wolf damage management program. Minnesota wolf range currently spans 30 counties and approximately 28,560 square miles requiring 10 seasonal employees and contributions from other full-time staff to respond to wolf complaints.	Entire State MN	\$633
The Good Acre	LEAFF is seeking funds to equitably pay BIPOC farmers for the produce they've harvested to redistribute to community members in need. LEAFF works exclusively with BIPOC growers, and work to obtain culturally specific foods that are rarely available to people facing hunger.	Falcon Heights MN	\$200
Prairie Pines Childcare Center	Dollars requested will go towards a remodel of a high quality building that has been donated to Prairie Pines Childcare Center. The building is in excellent condition, but needs significant interior remodeling to provide childcare services and meet guidelines of the Department of Human Services.	Fosston MN	\$418
Goodhue County	Provide broadband coverage to multiple rural unserved and under-served areas within Goodhue County.	Goodhue County MN	\$4,280
Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior	The Grand Portage Reservation is located in the extreme North East tip of Minnesota with the village less than 5 miles from the Canadian border. The purpose of this proposal is to replace the outdated and inefficient heating system at the Grand Portage Community Center. The current system is approximately 28 years old and is rated 70% efficient; the heating system has had multiple issues over the years which has resulted in high repair costs and a disruption in daily activities at the Community Center.	Grand Portage MN	\$209
Greenwood Township	This project will provide fiber to the home to 1,370 HH/passings in Greenwood Lake Vermillion Townships in rural NE MN.	Greenwood Township MN	\$5,500
Southwest Minnesota State University Foundation	The Southwest Minnesota State University Center for Integrated Agriculture and Food Systems will create multidisciplinary experiential educational opportunities within research projects that encourage sustainable agricultural practices, expose a diverse student population to rural career paths, and address food security issues.	Marshall MN	\$1,980
City of Medford	The City plans to build a new fire hall to accommodate the City's fire protection needs. The project includes a larger building to meet the equipment storage and training needs of the Medford Fire Department. The City currently owns the property and has studied and designed the building that will fit the current and future needs of Medford and surrounding communities.	Medford MN	\$4,500
Great Plains Institute	The proposed project is intended to leverage the previous and ongoing work by these entities and to deliver solutions and best practices to state agencies and local land use authorities (cities and counties) to create a new wave of solar-integrated agriculture that protects and enhances agriculture and enables substantial new investment in Minnesota. Today solar development often competes with agriculture for land. While the total amount of farmland at risk for solar development is a tiny fraction of the nation's agricultural lands, the local impacts of a greatly expanded solar deployment, 6.9 million acres of land over the next 25 years, can be significant.	Minneapolis MN	\$500
MN State Southern Agricultural Center of Excellenc	Southern Minnesota focus on developing new ways to grow communities and establishment of Rural Agricultural Community Initiatives - bring together vision and resources to educate, launch and grow ag and food future leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs in upper Midwest.	Multiple College Campuses in Southern MN MN	\$2,965

City of New London	The city has been planning on either building a new library building or renovating an existing building and have run into a large shortage of funding, due to the increase in construction costs and the architects estimates from 2016.	New London MN	\$1,000
Otter Tail County	According to data from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, less than 2% of Otter Tail County is served by broadband services that meet or exceed Minnesota's 2026 goal of all homeowners having access to at least one provider of broadband with download speeds of at least 100 megabits per second and upload speeds of at least 20 megabits per. Only three counties rank lower. All funds would be used for the construction of broadband internet in Otter Tail County.	Otter Tail County MN	\$21,700
Pine County	Pine County, located in Minnesota Congressional District 8, along with full support of the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, respectfully seeks funding to complete Broadband initiatives to underserved areas within Pine County, specifically census tract 9504. It is estimated that the project will cost \$7,425,000 or \$3043 per passing. The project estimate factors building asymmetrical fiber utilizing and expanding current infrastructure to complete the project. The timeline for the project is 2-3 years.	Pine County MN	\$7,425
Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC)	The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches is requesting funds for purchasing, installing, and operating cold-climate greenhouses at four farm sites in Sandstone, Backus, Pope County, and St. Joseph. The greenhouses will help increase access to locally-produced healthier food options all year round, increase food security, reduce health disparities from obesity and poor nutrition, provide immersive agricultural education programs, and promote sustainable agricultural practices. This project is a part of a comprehensive strategy to build equity across the food system for Black, Indigenous, and people of color in rural Minnesota while providing opportunities for collaboration between small farms, creating new distribution channels, nurturing the talent of emerging BIPOC and economically disadvantaged farmers, providing new opportunities in agri-businesses, and making regional food systems more resilient to climate change and macroeconomic disruptions like COVID-19.	Pope County MN	\$1,327
Oslo Region Joint Powers Board	The Red River of the North, bordering MN and ND, is extremely susceptible to spring and summer flooding events, overtopping roads and rail transportation and inundating farmland.	Red River Valley/ Oslo MN	\$29,430
Wuori Township Fiber for the Future!	Paul Bunyan Communications is seeking federal funding to bring high speed broadband services to Wuori Township, just outside of Virginia, Minnesota. The project will reach approximately 280 locations in the township.	St. Louis County MN	\$744
Paul Bunyan Communications	Paul Bunyan Communications is seeking federal finding to bring high speed broadband services to French Township, just north of Hibbing, Minnesota. The project will reach 86 locations within the township.	St. Louis County MN	\$92
Biwabik Township	Biwabik Township has undertaken a comprehensive strategy to address health and safety facility needs and resident quality of life enhancements. As part of this strategy, the Township recently constructed a new Town Hall to better serve the needs of Township residents and to provide a viable space to conduct Township essential government services. The cost of the facility was \$788,018. A vast portion of this cost was paid by the Township setting aside excess general fund balances of a 15 year period. This demonstrated a responsible means of financing the Town Hall.	St. Louis County MN	\$626
Bois Forte Tribal Government	Greenwood Township is physically adjacent to the Vermilion sector of this Bois Forte reservation and is currently considered underserved based upon the State of Minnesota guidelines for broadband. This culturally diverse community maintains close economic ties with the Bois Forte Reservation. This area is composed of Tribal school teachers, medical personnel, teleworkers and home based entrepreneurs that could benefit from this project and provide financial viability and sustainability throughout this entire region. This project involves a fiber to the home buildout that will provide the necessary bandwidth to support this region for the next 20 years.	Tower MN	\$6,924

Vermilion Housing Corporation	Vermilion Housing Corporation is a non profit volunteer board that owns and operates 50 apartments in four separate buildings that have been constructed in 1976 and are in need of major rehabilitation to continue to provide a safe and adequate living place for low to moderate income tenants. Three of the four buildings have been maintained as normal wear and tear occurs, however they are approaching 50 years of use by various tenants and it is essential to rehabilitate the structures. These buildings consist of one and two bedroom apartments that are critical to meet the needs of low to moderate income families, at a reasonable affordable rent rate and in a safe and friendly environment. Vacancies have been running high due to the various physical problems associated with the apartments thus the availability of access to affordable housing is restricted.	Tower, MN	\$1,500
Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center	Farmamerica was established in 1978 by the Minnesota State Legislature as Minnesota's official Interpretive Center for Agriculture. Assistance from federal funds would get the "Rooted & Growing" capital campaign up and running significantly faster, attracting new and repeat visitors, and increasing consumer awareness of agriculture's economic and daily impact on people's lives. Federal funds will specifically be used for the following: The silo area of the Farmamerica visitor center will be remodeled to an engaging, safe, interactive, exploratory space for visitors to discover how they are personally connected to agriculture through hands-on experiences and exhibits. The hallway of the Farmamerica visitor center will be remodeled to a meaningful and more functional space with interactive displays highlighting farmer sustainability and seed technology. A new summer day-camp (Ag Career Immersion program) will be developed to help youth and young adults make connections between their interests and agriculture careers in southern Minnesota	Waseca MN	\$425
Hmong American Farmers Association	Federal funds received would be used for the Phase 2 of our Capital Campaign project, which focuses on building a 6000 square feet year-round wash, rinse, cooling and curing facility and office space on the Hafa incubator farm. We expect to finalize the construction plan by the end of FY2022 and start construction in FY2023.	West Saint Paul MN	\$3,640