



COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Andy Beshear
GOVERNOR

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April 2, 2020

Austin R. Evers
Executive Director
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

(A) GREEN
USB

Re: February 10, 2020 Open Records Request

Dear Mr. Evers,

This letter is the final response to your February 10, 2020 open records request received by the Office of the Governor on February 18, 2020. In your request, you asked for

All communications (including emails, email attachments, calendar invitations, text messages, and phone logs) between (a) the former employees of the state of Kentucky listed in Column A and (b) the current or former employees of the federal Department of Transportation listed in Column B.

We have now received payment for the responsive records. The records are enclosed on a USB drive.

As we stated previously, we have redacted a date from the email as a preliminary scheduling matter pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(i). A governor's schedule is a preliminary document that is not subject to public inspection. *See* 16-ORD-039 (holding that KRS 61.878(1)(i) applies to a Governor's schedule); *Courier-Journal v. Jones*, 895 S.W.2d 6 (Ky. App. 1995) (holding that a Governor's appointment schedule is a draft document and a notation for inter or intra office use).

If you wish to appeal this decision, you may do so by filing a complaint with the Office of the Attorney General, Open Records/Open Meetings, The Capitol, 700 Capitol Avenue, Suite 118, Frankfort, KY 40601, pursuant to KRS 61.880(2), or by filing an original action in Franklin Circuit Court under KRS 61.882. If you first appeal to the Attorney General but are dissatisfied with the Attorney General's decision, you may further appeal to Circuit Court pursuant to KRS 61.880(5).

Sincerely,

/s/ Taylor Payne

Taylor Payne
Deputy General Counsel

From: Maxson, Philip (McConnell) <Philip_Maxson@mcconnell.senate.gov>

Sent: Friday, September 06, 2019 10:31 AM EDT

To: Maxson, Philip (McConnell) <Philip_Maxson@mcconnell.senate.gov>

Subject: Good news for families in Eastern Kentucky today with federal investments made in a number of important projects

Two releases below from Sen. McConnell and a release from Gov. Bevin and Rep. Rogers.

Phil

MITCH McCONNELL

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER
U.S. SENATOR for KENTUCKY

For Immediate Release, Friday, September 6, 2019

Contacts: David Popp, Doug Andres

Robert Steurer, Stephanie Penn

McConnell Helps Secure \$4.78 Million Grant for Children's Hospital in Pikeville

*McConnell: 'Today's announcement is an investment in the future
of Eastern Kentucky and its families'*

LOUISVILLE, KY—U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) today announced the Pikeville Medical Center (PMC) received a \$4.78 million competitive federal grant from the U.S. Department of Interior's Abandoned Mine Land Economic Development Pilot Program (AML Pilot). The PMC plans to use these federal resources to establish a premier regional children's hospital to serve Central Appalachian children in need of preventative care, hospitalization, and routine pediatric care.

Senator McConnell contacted the U.S. Department of Interior in support of PMC's grant application.

As Senate Majority Leader, McConnell shepherded the legislation creating the AML Pilot to enactment with U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers (R-KY) in 2015. Since then, Senator McConnell and Congressman Rogers have helped secure \$105 million from this federal program to be awarded for Kentucky projects, like this one for PMC.

"As a top-notch pediatric facility, the PMC Children's Hospital will provide care to Kentucky children in the heart of Appalachia and help them develop a lifetime of healthy living," **said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.** "Today's announcement is an investment in the future of Eastern Kentucky and its families, and it's benefits will be enjoyed for years to come."

"I helped develop the AML Pilot program with Congressman Rogers to deliver much-needed federal resources to revitalize this region's economy and to improve the lives of families in our coal communities," **McConnell continued.** "As Senate Majority Leader and a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, I make funding this program a top priority each year to continue its innovative work. Congressman Rogers and Governor Bevin continue to be strong partners in this effort, and I'm confident today's grant announcements will benefit families and communities throughout Eastern Kentucky."

"On behalf of Pikeville Medical Center, the Board of Directors, physicians and staff, I want to thank Senator Mitch McConnell for supporting our application for the AML grant to build a hospital to serve our children," **said Donovan Blackburn, PMC CEO and Board of Directors Vice President.** "The grant will provide a children's hospital that will fill the gap in the region's health care network with a complete continuum of care from birth through adulthood. This investment in eastern KY will help us reach out beyond the walls of the hospital to broaden the scope and deepen the value of what we can provide the region's youth. At PMC, we intend to continue to provide quality care, recruit excellent physicians and expand our services for the people we serve. With the support of Senator McConnell and others who are willing to invest in improving eastern Kentucky and growing our economy, we will continue to see our hospital grow and our patients receive the health care they deserve."

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MITCH McCONNELL

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER
U.S. SENATOR *for* KENTUCKY

For Immediate Release, Friday, September 6, 2019

Contacts: David Popp, Doug Andres
Robert Steurer, Stephanie Penn

McConnell Supports Next-Generation Drone Technology with Federal Grant

McConnell: 'Tapping into this region's bright future with these federal funds can support...good jobs for families in Knott County and the region.'

LOUISVILLE, KY—U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) today announced the Troublesome Creek Environmental Authority (TCEA) received a \$743,000 competitive federal grant from the U.S. Department of Interior's Abandoned Mine Land Economic Development Pilot Program (AML Pilot). The TCEA plans to use these federal resources to connect existing water and sewer lines to the USA Drone Port in Knott County. As a driver for economic development, the Drone Port is expected to create many jobs in the coming years as it becomes a hub for unmanned aerial and land vehicles.

Senator McConnell contacted the U.S. Department of Interior in support of TCEA's grant application.

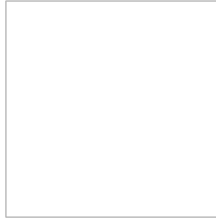
As Senate Majority Leader, McConnell shepherded the legislation creating the AML Pilot to enactment with U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers (R-KY) in 2015. Since then, Senator McConnell and Congressman Rogers have helped secure \$105 million from this federal program to be awarded for Kentucky projects, like this one for TCEA.

"Kentucky is recognized as a center for aerospace innovation, and the investment announced today will help boost that technological success to new heights," **said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell.** "Tapping into this region's bright future with these federal funds can fuel this industry's growth, supporting good jobs for families in Knott County and the region.

"I helped develop the AML Pilot program with Congressman Rogers to deliver much-needed federal resources to revitalize this region's economy and to improve the lives of families in our coal communities," **McConnell continued.** "As Senate Majority Leader and a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, I make funding this program a top priority each year to continue its innovative work. Congressman Rogers and Governor Bevin continue to be strong partners in this effort, and I'm confident today's grant announcements will benefit families and communities throughout Eastern Kentucky."

"The Troublesome Creek Environmental Authority wishes to thank Senator McConnell for his efforts in securing funding, through the AML Pilot program, for our project which will bring water and sewer to the USA Drone Port," **said Don Gibson, Chairman of the TCEA.** "The USA Drone Port is the only one of its type in the United States. Providing water and sewer to it will assist in enticing businesses who wish to test unmanned vehicles for the development of their future endeavors. We look forward to the growth of the Drone Port and eagerly await the creation of new jobs which will greatly benefit our local economy."

###



**Commonwealth of Kentucky
Governor's Office**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Nicole Burton
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John Mura
502-782-7023
John.Mura@ky.gov

**Gov. Bevin, Congressman Rogers Announce
\$34.4 Million in Abandoned Mine Lands Pilot Grants
for Economic Development and Job Creation
in Eastern Kentucky**

14 Eastern Kentucky counties impacted by investments

PIKEVILLE, Ky. (Sept. 6, 2019) – U.S. Rep. Harold "Hal" Rogers (KY-05) and Gov. Matt Bevin today announced 20 grants totaling \$34.4 million to spur economic development and job creation in Eastern Kentucky.

Projects impacting 14 counties were selected for grants through the Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet's (EEC) Division of Abandoned Mine Lands, as part of the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Pilot Program to revitalize the coalfields in Kentucky's Appalachian region through economic development.

All projects were unveiled at the 2019 Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR) Summit in Pikeville by Gov. Bevin and Congressman Rogers, who has championed \$425 million in federal funding for the AML Pilot Program since 2016, alongside U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY). \$105 million of the program funds have been awarded to Kentucky.

"These grant announcements target the regional scope of SOAR and the importance of collaborating across county boundaries by highlighting the success we can create when we combine federal, state and local resources," said Congressman Rogers. "We are addressing a broad spectrum of issues through these grants, from advancing healthcare, to enhancing tourism, to improving infrastructure, to creating new jobs. If we are going to shape our future, we must continue to take a holistic approach."

"I am excited to join Congressman Rogers today in announcing more than \$34 million in

KY-GOV-20-0142-A-000004

AML Pilot Program investments for 20 economic development projects across Eastern Kentucky,” said Gov. Bevin. “These funds will assist the region’s communities in providing vital healthcare access, workforce training, infrastructure development, tourism enhancement, and economic opportunity. We are grateful to Congressman Rogers for being a tireless champion and strong partner as we transform Eastern Kentucky’s economy to build a brighter future for our citizens.”

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said that as Leader and a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, he has made funding this program a top priority each year to deliver much-needed federal resources to revitalize this region’s economy and to improve the lives of families in Eastern Kentucky’s coal communities.

“Eastern Kentucky communities hold great potential, and the investments announced today will support families, workers and community institutions throughout this wonderful region,” Senator McConnell said.

Healthcare and job training projects include:

- Pikeville Medical Center in Pike County was selected to receive \$4.78 million for the construction and resources necessary to develop a children’s hospital and pediatric clinic. In addition to creating jobs in the health care industry, the facility will provide regional health care services for over 100,000 children.
- Leslie County was selected to receive \$2.056 million to develop the Leslie County Job Training, Connectivity and TeleWorks program, which will expand internet connectivity and provide training for high demand jobs. The project will connect downtown Hyden to wi-fi service and will expand access to community center in Stinnett and Cutshin to support new job opportunities through TeleWorks.
- The East Kentucky Advanced Manufacturing Institute, (eKAMI), in Morgan County was selected to receive \$3.4 million to expand its outreach from Johnson County to the East Kentucky Correctional Complex at West Liberty. The grant will be used to construct a 20,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art training facility at the correctional complex to retrain prisoners and help them develop skills for a successful reintegration into society.
- The USA Drone Port in Perry and Knott counties was selected to receive \$1.5 million to construct a cutting-edge, indoor drone flight-testing facility. The 20,000-square-foot facility will enable all-weather drone research and development.
- Hazard Community and Technical College in Perry County was selected to receive \$2.5 million to retrofit the existing industrial education building into the Advanced Manufacturing and Construction Center of Excellence in order to provide high-tech, hands-on training in the manufacturing sector. The center will train students in welding, construction, computer aided drafting and design, electricity, machining, tool and die, and HVAC.

Infrastructure improvement projects include:

- The Martin County Water District will receive \$2 million for a new booster pump station, a 250,000-gallon storage tank, and other upgrades to shore up water system failures.
- The Big Sandy Regional Industrial Authority in Martin County was selected to receive \$2 million to construct a build-ready site for a 200,000-square-foot building and to renovate other locations in the Eastern Kentucky Business Park. The project will create one of the most highly marketable industrial park in the coal fields.
- The International Landing Zone in Martin County was selected to receive \$1.37 million to create a multi-user manufacturing facility in an existing 33,000-square-foot facility in the Eastern Kentucky Business Park. The project will provide small-scale, graduated manufacturing space for companies seeking to begin operations until they are ready to expand into their own locations.
- Southern Water and Sewer District in Floyd County was selected to receive \$1.5 million to replace and update water meters serving its residential and commercial customers.
- Troublesome Creek Environmental Authority in Knott County was selected to receive \$743,000 to expand a sewer collection system to the USA Drone Port and

to add water service to the site. The project will lay the groundwork for future water service expansion.

- The city of Paintsville and Johnson County were selected to receive \$4 million for construction of a sewer expansion that will free up capacity at the Paintsville Waste Water Treatment Plant by diverting waste to the Honey Branch Wastewater Treatment Plant. The expansion will alleviate the capacity issues at the Paintsville plant and foster economic growth in the city, as well as along the sewer route.

Tourism-related projects include:

- The city of Beattyville in Lee County was selected to receive \$1.25 million to develop a trail head along the Beattyville Coal Seam that will serve as a starting point for hiking and mountain biking. The Beattyville Connect project will develop a town square along with walking paths and historical markers.
- The city of Prestonsburg in Floyd County was selected to receive \$185,000 to do planning and feasibility studies to develop the Levisa and Russell Forks as a Blue Water Trail.
- EKY Heritage Foundation, Inc. has been selected to receive \$3.465 million to develop Thunder Mountain, a world-class, sport-shooting and archery resort park in Letcher County.
- Impact Outdoor Adventures in Clay County was selected to receive \$205,000 that will build a roadway to provide improved access to the Impact Outdoor campground, which hosts year-round events for local youth.
- The Kentucky Coal Heritage Trail in Floyd County was selected to receive \$225,000 to develop a comprehensive inventory of coal-related buildings, and vacant historic sites in the 20 Appalachian Regional Commission's coal counties of Southeast Kentucky. The inventory will help launch reclamation efforts and tourism activities related to the region's rich coal mining heritage.
- The Harlan County River Ramp project was selected to receive \$376,000 that will construct nine ramps for canoe and kayak access into the Cumberland River and two dock ramps at Cranks and Highsplint lakes for recreation and fishing.
- Mine Made Adventures in Knott County was selected to receive \$1.5 million to expand and develop the park. The project will include campground sites, cabins, and a multi-use building. The newly developed park will serve as a trailhead for hundreds of miles of interconnected, multi-purpose trails.
- The South Fork Elk View Campground in Breathitt County was selected to receive \$1.345 million to continue development of the campground and recreation opportunities.

Energy and Environment Cabinet Secretary Charles Snavelly said \$25 million was available for 2019 grants and that over \$135 million in projects was submitted to the Cabinet. "While we would have liked to fund them all, we feel great about the projects that will go forward and contribute to the economic rebuilding of Eastern Kentucky," Sec. Snavelly said.

The \$2 million Martin County Water District and the Clay County Impact Outdoor Adventures projects have been approved by the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation Enforcement (OSMRE). The others are pending final approval.

The AML Pilot Program, funded through OSMRE, is a program administered by the Energy and Environment Cabinet's Division of Abandoned Mine Lands with assistance from the Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development, the Department for Local Government, and the SOAR Initiative in Eastern Kentucky.

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Editors: Additional quotes from state legislators and county judge executives from among the 14 counties that have been awarded projects can be found [here](#).



Questions? [Contact us](#)

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From: Maxson, Philip (McConnell) <Philip_Maxson@mcconnell.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2019 4:37 PM EST
To: Maxson, Philip (McConnell) <Philip_Maxson@mcconnell.senate.gov>
Subject: McConnell & Comer Announce \$9.8 Million for Central Kentucky's Heartland Parkway



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC

For Immediate Release, Wednesday, November 6, 2019
Contacts: Robert Steurer (McConnell), Michelle Bowling (Comer)
Press release link: <http://bit.ly/2WNld3l>

McConnell and Comer Announce \$9.8 Million for Central Kentucky's Heartland Parkway

Senator McConnell and Congressman Comer contacted Trump Administration in support of competitive federal transportation grant to benefit region's economy

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Congressman James Comer (R-KY-01) announced today that Taylor County, Kentucky has been awarded \$9.8 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) "Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development" (BUILD) grant program. On behalf of their constituents, Senator McConnell and Congressman Comer contacted the Assistant Secretary at DOT in support of Taylor County Fiscal Court's competitive federal grant application.

Taylor County officials are partnering with those in Marion County, the City of Campbellsville, and the City of Lebanon, to complete the Heartland Parkway project. According to local officials, the federal funding will be used to construct the Campbellsville Bypass—approximately 13.4 miles of the Heartland Parkway through Taylor and Marion counties. This much needed improvement to a heavily traveled corridor in Central Kentucky, will serve as a gateway to several tourism destinations and help bolster the region's economy.

"Completing the Heartland Parkway project will not only enhance safety along Central Kentucky roadways, but it will also encourage new economic development in several Kentucky communities," **said Senator McConnell**. "With this BUILD grant, we continue investing in this wonderful region and its bright future, and I was proud to work with several great local leaders, including Congressman James Comer, Taylor County Judge-Executive Barry Smith and Campbellsville Mayor Brenda Allen, to bring these federal resources to the Commonwealth. As Senate Majority Leader, I'm constantly looking for new opportunities for Kentucky to lead the nation, and I was glad to help these communities benefit with this federal grant."

"Local officials in Campbellsville have been championing this project for years, and I'm thrilled to see that their hard work has paid off to secure this significant grant," **Congressman Comer said**. "It's been a privilege to work alongside them to see that key improvements will be made to this corridor, further serving the area's tourism and business development interests. Establishing these direct connections to major regional transportation channels, including the Louie B. Nunn Cumberland Parkway and the Martha Layne Collins Bluegrass Parkway, will ensure continued prosperity along this vital corridor primed for tourism and economic development. I was proud to work alongside Leader McConnell to support this effort for these communities."

"An efficient and safe road system is key to the economic future of Campbellsville and Central Kentucky," **said Campbellsville Mayor Brenda Allen**. "This BUILD grant can help us complete critical infrastructure upgrades, including the Campbellsville Bypass, that can attract new visitors and help support good jobs. Our community continues to thrive because of the leadership of Senator McConnell and the special attention he brings to Kentucky as Majority Leader as well as the unwavering partnership of Congressman Comer."

"The BUILD grant announced today is another investment into the future of Taylor County, and we're grateful to have great advocates in Senator McConnell and Congressman Comer, who helped steer these federal resources to our community," **Taylor County Judge-Executive Barry Smith said**. "Improving this corridor will help traffic flow more easily, making our region a better destination for travelers, families, and economic activity."

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From: Maxson, Philip (McConnell) <Philip_Maxson@mcconnell.senate.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2019 9:03 PM EST

To: Maxson, Philip (McConnell) <Philip_Maxson@mcconnell.senate.gov>

Subject: McConnell and Barr Announce \$10.2 Million Transportation Grant for Bourbon and Scott Counties



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC

For Immediate Release, Wednesday, November 6, 2019
Contacts: Robert Steurer (McConnell), Jodi Whitaker (Barr)
Press release link: <http://bit.ly/2JUleNK>

McConnell and Barr Announce \$10.2 Million Transportation Grant for Bourbon and Scott Counties

Senator McConnell and Congressman Barr contacted Trump Administration in support of competitive federal transportation grant to benefit region's economy

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Congressman Andy Barr (R-KY-06) announced today that Bourbon and Scott counties, in Kentucky's Bluegrass region, have been awarded \$10.2 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) "Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development" (BUILD) grant program. Senator McConnell and Congressman Barr contacted the Assistant Secretary at DOT in support of their competitive federal grant application.

The counties will use this funding for the reconstruction of US 460 from Paris to I-75 in Georgetown, Kentucky. According to local officials, the project will increase safety for freight and passenger cars by improving the existing 10-foot lanes, narrow shoulders, and other upgrades. This project is important to economic development in the region, in part because it will serve the Paris/Bourbon County Industrial Park.

"Enhancing safety and efficiency along U.S. 460 is an important sign that the Bluegrass region is open for business, and I was proud to work with my colleague Congressman Andy Barr and local leaders to deliver this federal BUILD grant," **said Senator McConnell**. "These infrastructure improvements are an investment into the future of these communities and can help build upon their strong economy while supporting good jobs for Kentucky families. As Senate Majority Leader, I'm constantly looking for new opportunities for Kentucky to lead the nation, and I was glad to support the region by helping to secure this federal grant."

"After years of advocating for this project on behalf of my constituents in Bourbon and Scott counties, I'm excited to see funds being allocated to make the US 460 Improvement Project a reality," **said Congressman Barr**. "In addition to improving driver safety in the area, this project will support economic growth in the region by improving travel conditions for deliveries to Toyota and other regional businesses. I applaud the diligent work by both local officials and local businesses as they work to see this project through. I want to especially thank Leader McConnell for his hard work on this project as well, and for his dedication to making sure our roads are safe and adequate for local economic development needs."

"Bourbon County is ready to take full advantage of these federal funds, and we're excited to see the results of this investment," **said Bourbon County Judge-Executive Mike Williams**. "This BUILD grant will help attract new economic opportunity to the Industrial Park and throughout our county. Throughout this process, Senator McConnell and Congressman Barr have been our constant allies, helping to ensure Kentucky communities like ours have a strong voice in Washington."

"To continue our community's upward trajectory, we need safe and high-quality infrastructure. With this BUILD grant, we can help reduce injuries and heartbreaking fatalities along US 460 and help families reach their destination," **said Scott County Judge-Executive Joe Pat Covington**. "Thanks to Senator McConnell and Congressman Barr for helping us bring this BUILD grant to Kentucky. We couldn't ask for better leaders or stronger advocates for our community."

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From: Maxson, Philip (McConnell) <Philip_Maxson@mcconnell.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2019 11:04 AM EST
To: Maxson, Philip (McConnell) <Philip_Maxson@mcconnell.senate.gov>
Subject: McConnell Bill Protects Health Care and Pension Benefits for Kentucky Miners

MITCH McCONNELL

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER
U.S. SENATOR for KENTUCKY

For Immediate Release, Wednesday, November 6, 2019
Contacts: David Popp, Doug Andres
Robert Steurer, Stephanie Penn
Release: <https://bit.ly/32IDLZD>

Senator McConnell Introduces Bipartisan Bill to Protect Health Care and Pension Benefits for Kentucky Miners

'Earlier this week, I personally raised with President Trump the importance of protecting these coal miners' pensions and health retirement benefits, and I am committed to continuing to work with him and my colleagues in Congress towards a solution.'

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Joe Manchin (D-WV) today introduced the *Bipartisan American Miners Act of 2019*, which protects health care and pension benefits for thousands of United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) miners and their families.

The *Bipartisan American Miners Act of 2019* will amend the *Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977* to transfer funds in excess of the amounts needed to meet existing obligations under the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) fund to the 1974 Pension Plan to prevent its insolvency. The bipartisan bill also expands the existing health care benefits provided under Senator McConnell's *HELP for Coal Miners Health Care Act of 2017* to the orphaned coal miners whose benefits have been put in jeopardy. These actions will secure the pensions of 92,000 coal miners and protect health care benefits for 13,000 miners.

"Since his election, President Trump and I have worked together to end President Obama's War on Coal that has hurt thousands of Kentucky families. Unfortunately, eight years of regulatory assault on coal country can't be undone overnight. The startling number of orphaned miners in the drastically underfunded pension plan presents an urgent crisis for entire communities of miners, retirees, and their families," **said Senator McConnell**. "To help these Kentucky miners and their families, Senators Manchin, Capito, and I proudly introduced our bill today to help prevent this looming pension crisis. Earlier this week, I personally raised with President Trump the importance of protecting these coal miners' pensions and health retirement benefits, and I am committed to continuing to work with him and my colleagues in Congress towards a solution."

UMWA President Cecil E. Roberts, applauded the introduction of the bill, saying, "I am greatly appreciative of the legislation filed today in the United States Senate, the *Bipartisan American Miners Act of 2019*, sponsored by Senators Manchin, Capito and Majority Leader McConnell. With this one bill, the United States Senate has taken a giant, bipartisan step forward in keeping America's promise to our coal miners and their families. I am especially thankful for Leader McConnell's support of this legislation. His voice on behalf of retired miners is critical, and I want to thank him on behalf of every retired miner in America. Let us get this legislation passed as soon possible, and finally provide some peace of mind to these retired American heroes."

UMWA retiree, Eddie Embry of Hartford, Kentucky, thanked Senator McConnell for his leadership, saying, "Working to reach a solution for our Kentucky miners has been a monumental effort. We greatly appreciate the leadership shown by Senator McConnell and the other senators with the introduction of today's legislation. Our miner families will be sleeping better tonight in the coal fields knowing another step forward toward protecting a lifetime of hard work and promises has been taken."

"Throughout my entire Senate career, I have been proud to serve as a strong voice for coal families and the affordable and reliable American energy source they provide," **added Senator McConnell**. "As Senate Majority Leader, I

continue to advance policies to help Kentucky coal miners and their families recover from the Obama Administration's devastating War on Coal."

- In 2017, Senator McConnell mobilized Congress to permanently secure health care benefits for thousands of retired miners. Had Congress not acted, approximately 3,000 Kentucky coal miner retirees – and tens of thousands more around the country – would have lost their health care benefits. The bill also included additional assistance for troubled coal-mining communities and dislocated coal workers.
- As senior appropriators, Senator McConnell and Congressman Hal Rogers (KY-05) have secured hundreds of millions of dollars for the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Economic Development Pilot Program (AML Pilot). ARC funding supports economic growth in Eastern Kentucky by helping create jobs, combat the spiking substance abuse epidemic, and provide employment training for former coal miners, among a number of other worthy initiatives. In 2015, Senator McConnell and Congressman Rogers established the AML Pilot, which promotes economic and community development on abandoned mine lands. Since then, they have helped secure more than \$100 million for Kentucky for this program.
- Senator McConnell also helped secure \$99 million through the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to provide career and training services to dislocated workers in rural areas, including dislocated coal workers in Kentucky who lost their jobs. This includes \$3.7 million to help support the recently impacted Harlan County, Kentucky coal miners and their families with employment and training services.

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From: Maxson, Philip (McConnell) <Philip_Maxson@mcconnell.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 06, 2019 3:22 PM EST
To: Maxson, Philip (McConnell) <Philip_Maxson@mcconnell.senate.gov>
Subject: PADUCAH//McConnell Announces \$10.4 Million Transportation Grant for Paducah



For Immediate Release, Wednesday, November 6, 2019
Contacts: David Popp, Doug Andres
Robert Steurer, Stephanie Penn
Release: <https://bit.ly/33p5x8W>

Senator McConnell Announces \$10.4 Million Transportation Grant for Paducah

'With this BUILD grant, Paducah can continue creating new opportunities for tourism, recreation and commerce along the riverfront in support of good jobs and economic growth'

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) announced today that Paducah, Kentucky has been awarded \$10.4 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) "Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development" (BUILD) grant program. Senator McConnell contacted the Assistant Secretary at DOT in support of Paducah's competitive federal grant application.

Paducah will use this funding to support the Paducah Riverfront Infrastructure Project to develop several transportation assets for the safe and efficient movement of visitors and commerce in the city. According to Paducah officials, the project includes the expansion of a shipping container transfer yard, riverfront excursion pier and plaza to provide a safe landing and pathway for riverboat guests, bikers, and pedestrians from downtown to the riverfront.

"The Paducah community continues to tap into its beautiful geography at the heart of our nation's inland waterways network," **said Senator McConnell**. "With this BUILD grant, Paducah can continue creating new opportunities for tourism, recreation and commerce along the riverfront in support of good jobs and economic growth. Making Paducah an economic leader in our Commonwealth and the region has long been a priority for me, and I have been proud to work with Mayor Harless, Judge Clymer, and other city leaders to continue developing the riverfront and its vast potential. As Senate Majority Leader, I'm constantly looking for new opportunities for this wonderful region, and I was glad to help deliver this latest federal investment in Paducah's bright future."

"Paducah's local leaders know best how valuable our inland waterways are to economic development in the region. These community leaders have invested a tremendous amount of resources into the growth and innovation of river-related activities, constantly finding new ways to revitalize the riverfront and bring more opportunity to Paducah," **said Congressman James Comer (KY-01)**. "This grant is evidence of their engagement on this project and is an incredible opportunity for continued development of Paducah. I thank Senator McConnell for his leadership throughout this process and look forward to working on more issues to spur development in this region."

"The City Of Paducah is positioned and ready to take full advantage of this award from the Department of Transportation, and we are all grateful to Senator McConnell for his years of leadership on behalf of Paducah's priorities. From securing the very first federal funds for the riverfront project, to the floodwall, and all the way through to this BUILD award, Senator McConnell's partnership continues to play an indispensable role in our community's success. We fully understand the priorities of the Transportation Department, and we recognize the importance of ensuring that our infrastructure is safe, in good repair, and helps us generate economic development opportunities," **said Paducah Mayor Brandi Harless**. "The proposed steamboat excursion dock will continue to make Paducah a must-visit destination for river cruises. The completion of our riverfront development in addition to the transient boat dock that was recently completed will create a safe multi modal experience for both our citizens and our visitors."

"Senator McConnell continues to answer our call for federal assistance in developing and beautifying Paducah and McCracken County. He deserves our thanks and support," **said McCracken County Judge Executive Craig Clymer**.

Senator McConnell previously secured over \$9 million for the Paducah Waterfront Development Project, which included the city's transient boat dock. He also secured vital funding for the Paducah floodwall project, which helps people living in Paducah, better protect themselves, their homes, and their businesses from flooding.

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From: Maxson, Philip (McConnell) <Philip_Maxson@mcconnell.senate.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 1:15 PM EDT
To: Maxson, Philip (McConnell) <Philip_Maxson@mcconnell.senate.gov>
Subject: Senate Approves McConnell's Requests to Address Kentucky's Priorities

JUST NOW: U.S. Senate passes funding bill. As Majority Leader and a Senior Member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator McConnell directed national resources to bolster Kentucky priorities, including funds to combat the spread of Asian Carp, to support the hemp industry, and to fight the opioid and substance abuse epidemic.

MITCH McCONNELL
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER
U.S. SENATOR for KENTUCKY

For Immediate Release, Thursday, October 31, 2019
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Senate Approves McConnell's Requests to Address Kentucky Priorities

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) championed a number of critical resources for Kentucky in a government funding bill approved by the Senate today. As a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator McConnell secured funding to help fight the Asian Carp infestation in Western Kentucky, to support the hemp industry, to combat the opioid and substance abuse epidemic, and to strengthen Kentucky's critical infrastructure priorities. The measure must now be reconciled with the House-passed funding bill.

"As my colleagues and I considered the most responsible use of our limited federal resources, I fought hard to secure critical funding to address Kentucky priorities," **said Senator McConnell**. "We're investing in programs to encourage economic growth, protect Kentucky's treasured waterways, and help families suffering from the scourge of substance abuse. I'm proud to use my position as Senate Majority Leader to deliver for Kentucky, and I'll keep working with my colleagues to get this bill to the president's desk so communities throughout our Commonwealth can put these federal resources to good use."

The provisions Senator McConnell secured in the measure include:

COMBATING THE SPREAD OF ASIAN CARP IN WESTERN KENTUCKY

- **\$25 million to fight the War on Asian Carp. Senator McConnell helped secure \$11 million for this initiative last year.** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will use the funding to help remove Asian Carp, an invasive species, from reservoirs like Kentucky Lake and Lake Barkley. The bill also includes more than \$9 million for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), which will support its work to combat the spread of Asian Carp in Western Kentucky lakes and in the Ohio River and Tennessee River basins. Earlier this year, USFWS agreed to Senator McConnell's request to deploy the advanced "[Unified Method of Fishing](#)," which will involve corralling Asian Carp into one location using electronic technology and extracting the fish from the water with specialized nets. This technique has been successful in controlling Asian Carp populations abroad, and the USGS has successfully deployed it in Missouri and Illinois. In May, Senator McConnell visited Western Kentucky with members of the Trump Administration, where they discussed options, such as the Unified Method, to address the Asian Carp invasion with local officials, community leaders and the local media.

"With local leaders like Judge Wade White, we're making real progress in the War on Carp in Kentucky. At my request, the Trump administration is using its most sophisticated strategies to protect Kentucky's waters, and I'm proud to direct these federal resources to support this critical work."

Senator McConnell added.

SUPPORTING KENTUCKY'S HEMP INDUSTRY

- **\$16.5 million for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to implement Senator McConnell's hemp provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill.**
- **\$2.5 million for the research of hemp through Agriculture Research Service (ARS) sites – like those in Lexington and Bowling Green, Kentucky.**
- **A measure encouraging the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to issue formal enforcement discretion guidance for CBD products.** This guidance would remain in place until FDA finalizes a permanent legal pathway for the products.
- **A provision directing the Farm Credit Administration to offer services to hemp producers and businesses.**
- **A prohibition on the federal government from banning the transfer, production or sale of hemp in accordance with the 2014 Farm Bill.**
- **Support for competitive USDA grants for hemp projects.**
- **A measure to support the Drug Enforcement Agency's efforts to deploy technology to enable law enforcement to distinguish between hemp and marijuana in the field.**

"Hemp farmers, processors and manufacturers are exploring the crop's great potential, and I'm proud to work with them every step of the way. As federal and state governments continue to develop how to best support this industry, I'll keep working to benefit Kentucky producers and ensure hemp is treated just like any other legal commodity," **Senator McConnell said.** "Ensuring law enforcement can differentiate between industrial hemp and its illicit cousin is critical, and I'll continue working with the DEA and other federal agencies so hemp can be treated the same as any other legal commodity."

ADDRESSING THE OPIOID AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE EPIDEMIC

- **\$25 million for the transitional housing pilot program under the Comprehensive Addiction Recovery through Effective Employment and Reentry (CAREER) Act.** The CAREER Act, which is a measure Senator McConnell secured in the landmark opioid package signed into law last year, helps address the devastating impact of substance abuse on America's workforce by connecting recovering individuals with career services and stable housing opportunities. CAREER's transitional housing pilot program will support long-term recovery by providing funding for temporary housing opportunities for individuals until they can arrange a more permanent living situation.
- **\$48 million for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Anti-Heroin and Anti-Methamphetamine Task Force programs, including cosponsoring an amendment to increase funding for anti-meth programs.** This funding supports state and local law enforcement agencies, including those in Kentucky, in their efforts to investigate the unlawful distribution of heroin, prescription opioids, and methamphetamines.
- **\$3.3 billion for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program,** which provides communities with resources to address their unique challenges, including the devastating effects from the opioid and substance abuse epidemic, especially for those communities in rural Kentucky.
- **\$378 million to fund the Department of Justice (DOJ) programs created by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA),** which passed in 2016 under the leadership of Senator McConnell. The funding includes \$136 million for Drug Courts and Veteran's Treatment Courts to further combat the opioid and addiction epidemic in highly impacted states, like Kentucky.
- **\$545 million for the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) program to support local law enforcement.** Last year, Senator McConnell worked with state officials to secure millions to help Kentucky communities meet law enforcement needs, including supporting drug task forces throughout the Commonwealth.

"Kentucky is helping to lead the national response to the devastating opioid, meth, and substance abuse epidemic," **Senator McConnell said.**

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“By fully-funding vital programs, including my CAREER Act, we are supporting those on the path to long-term recovery and protecting families. Kentucky recently saw a long-awaited decrease in the number of overdose fatalities last year, and I am hopeful these resources will continue to build upon that success to prevent addiction, provide treatment, support interdiction, and—most importantly—to save lives.”

SUPPORTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

- **\$65.9 million for the construction of the Forage Animal Production Lab at the University of Kentucky.** The research done at this ARS site focuses on meeting the needs of this growing agri-business in the region and serves both the cattle and horse industries. Senator McConnell secured funding in prior appropriations bills to establish ARS labs at the University of Kentucky and Western Kentucky University. This important project will help UK and its local partners continue making Central Kentucky a national leader in high-tech agricultural research.
- **\$115 million for the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) pilot program, \$25M of which will go to Kentucky** for the development of projects on land previously used to mine coal to support economic development in Appalachia. As Senate Majority Leader, Senator McConnell worked with U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers (R-KY) to create the AML Pilot in 2015. So far, Senator McConnell and Congressman Rogers have helped secure \$105 million from this federal program to be awarded for Kentucky projects.
- **\$319.5 million for the Economic Development Agency (EDA), which provides federal competitive grants to communities to assist with economic development.** Since 2016, Senator McConnell helped secure nearly \$12 million in federal competitive grants for Kentucky through EDA grant programs. This year, he secured \$4 million for the Estill County Board of Education in Irvine, Kentucky. The grant will help build an Area Technical Center (ATC) educational building, expected to help create more than 500 jobs and retain 450 workers. In 2017, Senator McConnell also secured \$3 million in EDA funding to renovate the Rochester Dam in Western Kentucky.
- **\$100 million in dedicated funding for the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS),** which will go towards funding remaining ADHS priorities, including 12 miles in Letcher and Pike counties in Kentucky.
- **\$162 million for the Essential Air Service Program and \$3.8 billion for the Airport Improvement Program,** which will benefit airports like Barkley Regional Airport in Paducah and the Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport.
- **\$2 billion for the U.S. Department of Transportation’s BUILD and INFRA grant programs, which fund critical infrastructure projects around the country.** Senator McConnell is proud to support his constituents’ applications for these grants, working with the Trump administration to bring more than \$130 million to construction projects across the Bluegrass State.
- **A provision directing the USFWS to continue to expedite the establishment of the Green River National Wildlife Refuge (GRNWR) in Henderson County.** In 2018, Senator McConnell secured language directing the Department of Interior to establish the GRNWR to support conservation, hunting and fishing opportunities in Western Kentucky.
- **A provision encouraging the USFWS to remove certain inoperable locks and dams along the Green and Barren Rivers.** The bill provides almost \$19 million for USFWS to work with states like Kentucky to remove unnecessary legacy structures or barriers that harm fish habitats.

“Kentucky’s infrastructure is a critical factor of our economic potential, and I’m proud to help secure these much-needed federal resources to connect our Commonwealth to the globe,” **Senator McConnell said.** “From supporting economic revitalization in coal country to investment in our nation’s critical inland waterways, these resources will help Kentucky workers get their goods to market to support jobs and our communities.”

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From: Maxson, Philip (McConnell) <Philip_Maxson@mccconnell.senate.gov>
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 11:09 AM EDT
To: Maxson, Philip (McConnell) <Philip_Maxson@mccconnell.senate.gov>
Subject: WYMT: Sen. Mitch McConnell contacts U.S. Department of Labor on behalf of Blackjewel miners
Sen. Mitch McConnell contacts U.S. Department of Labor on behalf of Blackjewel miners
WYMT-TV, CBS Eastern Kentucky | August 29, 2019 | <https://bit.ly/32jKKlZ>

Senator Mitch McConnell contacted the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) on behalf of Harlan County, Kentucky coal miners and their families.

In the letter, McConnell thanked Acting Secretary Pat Pizzella on his constant communication with McConnell's office and for DOL's support of Blackjewel miners.

The Senator asked DOL to do everything in its power to support Kentucky's impacted miners through the difficult and uncertain time.

McConnell went on to say he fully supports the National Dislocated Worker Grant funding under the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act.

You can read the full letter [here](#).