



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0701

Rosa L. DeLauro
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$2,400,000 in funding for the East-West River Links project in fiscal year 2023. The entity to receive funding for this project is iQuilt Partnership, located at 31 Pratt Street, 5th Floor, Hartford, CT, 06103.

East-West River Links has two major components and both work to strengthen community connections across the Connecticut River. The project advances key components of Hartford 400, a river-centered vision for the Connecticut Valley and its Capital City.

Hartline is a 6-mile linear park that is a dedicated pedestrian/bikeway comprised of three segments. The conversion of a rail to trail (5 miles), protected bike lane through city streets (.5 mile) and the Riverlink (a .5 mile elevated pedestrian/bikeway bridge). The linear park connects multiple communities to the Connecticut Riverfront, and will help overcome historic infrastructure barriers that have limited opportunities and development in North Hartford.

Following on the planning and preliminary engineering for the Hartline and Riverlink (in 2021 and 2022) this funding will allow us to proceed through engineering/design to construction documents.

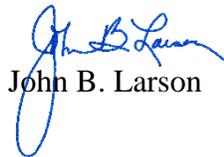
The second component focuses on transforming the river's east-west bridge crossings - two existing (Bulkeley and Founders) and two new (Coltsville and South) - into walkable, bikeable street bridges that knit together the 9 towns of the Capital City. We'll document the project's economic benefits, study its technical challenges, plan and design the major features, and develop a detailed plan for implementation.

On the east side, we'll integrate proposals for MidTown, Goodwin University, and Raytheon. We'll plan corridor connections through East Hartford and Manchester to the Storrs UConn campus, incorporating East Hartford's Silver Lane redevelopment and Manchester's investments in its downtown.

On the west side, we'll link to Coltsville National Historic Park and the Charter Oak Mile corridor, and to anticipated redevelopment in Hartford's South Meadows.

The project will place strong emphasis on transit linkages, including eastward expansion of CT Fastrak, and on the growing regional network of bike/pedestrian paths and trails. I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



John B. Larson