

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2024

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Schatz and Ranking Member Hyde-Smith:

The purpose of this letter is to request a technical correction to a Fiscal Year 2022 Congressionally Directed Spending project in the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies bill, listed below.

I certify the neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I certify that the entity for which I have requested Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) is not a for-profit entity. The reason for this necessary correction are the words "Otto Lane – New Germany" which were inadvertently included in the project description listed in the Fiscal Year 2022 CDS Chart on page 120 in Division L of the Joint Explanatory Statement.

Account funded in: DOT HIP

Project Name in the FY22 JES: Garrett Trails – Eastern Continental Divide Loop Trail (Otto Lane – New Germany)

Recipient Name in the FY22 JES: N/A (Not listed, however the recipient is Garrett County, Maryland)

Project Purpose as originally requested in Legimate: Funds will be used to help complete the Meadow Mountain Trail, which is the portion of the Eastern Continental Divide Loop plan that runs from Deep Creek State Park to Grantsville. The project will provide safe paths through public land and increase tourism to Garrett County.

Request for technical change:

In an effort to demonstrate that the project was in MDOT's STIP, my staff provided the following information: "Garrett Trails – Eastern Continental Divide Loop referenced in MDOT STIP Appendix J, see page 4: https://www.mdot.maryland.gov/OPCP/Appendix_J.pdf"

This reference in the STIP specifically cites one segment "Otto Lane – New Germany" of the trail which has already been funded and completed. The original purpose of the requested funds remains the same. I respectfully request that the Project Description in the JES be corrected by removing "(Otto Lane – New Germany)" to accurately reflect the stated purpose of the project, "Garrett Trails – Eastern Continental Divide Loop Trail."

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Van Hollen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "V".

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator