

H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

9TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON
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SUBCOMMITTEES:

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Good afternoon,

I would like to offer my greetings and thanks for all that you do in Southwest Virginia.

I am happy to report on the progress we have made at the federal level in securing support for the long-planned Coalfields Expressway. Everyone here understands well the tremendous impact the project's completion would have on our economy. You also know well the challenges of securing sufficient funding to make progress. Even when Virginia receives federal aid, it can be difficult for our region to obtain a share compared to more populated parts of the state.

The opening of the appropriations process in the House of Representatives to funding requests from Members presented a new opportunity to advocate for this vital infrastructure. Fiscal year 2022 was the first time in years that such an opportunity was available, and I believe it is an ideal venue for projects like the Coalfields Expressway. Bureaucrats in Washington often overlook needed projects in regions like ours. Providing the chance for Members of Congress to request funding gives the communities we represent a stronger voice.

Working with the Coalfields Expressway Authority, we prepared a request and submitted it to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. That request sought aid for engineering work to prepare the Expressway's route.

The final outcome of the FY 2022 appropriations process was nearly \$2 million for this request signed into law, a significant investment from the Federal Government in our region. I am proud that the effort advanced by everyone here has borne fruit.

Much remains to be done before the promise of the Coalfields Expressway can be achieved. Our experience in fiscal year 2022, however, shows that progress is possible. We are already at work preparing a request for the next fiscal year's appropriations process. Working with Senators Kaine and Warner, I am hopeful we will get additional money in fiscal year 2023. I look forward to our continued partnership in this effort.

Thank you for all that you do. I remain

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Morgan Griffith".

H. MORGAN GRIFFITH
Member of Congress