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**CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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RANKING MEMBER

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AND RELATED AGENCIES

LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

April 22, 2021

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

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting \$5,500,000 for the Custer County Detention Facility project in the FY22 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

The project sponsor for this project is Custer County and the project is located at 801 E. Main Ave, Challis, ID 83226.

The Custer County Jail was built in 1904, it can currently only accommodate a maximum of 6 inmates and is not federally compliant. The county currently has 16 outstanding warrants that it cannot act on because they do not have the capacity to hold any more inmates, creating a potentially dangerous situation for the citizens of Custer County. Custer County is the third largest county in Idaho with just under 5,000 square miles and a population of 4,628 people. Of the 3.1 million acres in the county, the tax base is only 157,000 acres of private land.

The funding is designated to construct a 33,000 sq ft detention facility designed to house up to 28 inmates in a pod style layout that will accommodate separate inmate classifications safely and securely. The new facility, unlike the current one, will be ADA, ACA, and PREA compliant.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and will allow Custer County to safely detain those who are charged with crimes safely and securely. In its current state, Custer County must prioritize who to arrest and has had to transport prisoners to other counties in some cases. The cost of transportation and housing in other counties has decimated the budget of this rural county with an undersized tax base and a poverty rate of nearly 20%. The county is unlikely to be able to complete this desperately needed project without federal support.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Simpson" followed by "M.C." in a smaller font.

Mike Simpson
April 20, 2021