

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2015

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ander Crenshaw
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable José E. Serrano
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Crenshaw and Ranking Members Lowey and Serrano:

We respectfully request that you include funding for the construction of a new federal courthouse in Nashville in the final FY 2016 appropriations bill.

We were pleased the President's FY 2016 Budget, along with the Senate's FY 2016 appropriations bill, included funding for the Nashville courthouse, the top priority of the Judicial Conference of the United States. Nashville has been waiting for a new courthouse since 1992, when the Estes Kefauver Federal Courthouse was first deemed "inadequate."

The current Estes Kefauver building is home to our federal courthouse and nine other federal agencies and offices. It should be one of the most secure buildings in Nashville; structural deficiencies create major security problems. Prisoners, judges, jurors, staff, visitors and armed guards all share the same hallways and elevators. The prisoner sallyport even shares an access point with the parking garage used by judges and staff.

Congress has already appropriated \$26.1 million for the Nashville project, of which \$25.1 million has been obligated. Recent removal of deteriorating structures on the site has brought the project one step closer to being shovel-ready. We are all very sensitive to the funding challenges you face in tight budgetary times, but conditions have been deteriorating in federal courthouses for decades. Nowhere is this more apparent than Nashville, where we've reached a critical situation.

Thank you for your consideration and leadership in this process. We look forward to working with you to address the Judiciary's needs.

Sincerely,



Jim Cooper
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



Diane Black
Member of Congress



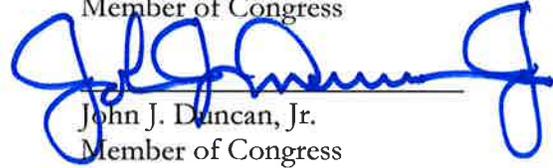
Phil Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



John J. Duncan, Jr.
Member of Congress

- cc: The Honorable Thad Cochran, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Barbara Mikulski, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable John Boozman, Senate Appropriations Committee
The Honorable Christopher Coons, Senate Appropriations Committee