



**OFFICE OF THE TRIBAL CHIEF CYRUS BEN**  
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April 26, 2021

The Honorable Steven Palazzo  
United States Representative  
2349 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Palazzo,

On behalf of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, I write to express our support for the MBCI Bogue Homa Water Improvement Project receiving Community Project Funding in the FY22 Interior Appropriations bill.

The Bogue Homa Community is served by a non-Tribal rural water system that pumps drinking water from an aquifer that has naturally occurring color in the water. The color does not pose a health risk, so the water system is able to meet its Safe Drinking Water Act regulations and distribute the water based on the color being an aesthetic defect. That said, the color does stain clothing, has been described as looking like brewed tea, and does not instill confidence with the local population or the patrons of local businesses. The Tribe will drill new wells and install a water treatment plant capable of removing the color.

Our Tribe is willing to carry out this project through completion and we will be able to obligate all received funds by the end of FY22.

The Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians strongly supports the MBCI Bogue Homa Water Improvement Project and we urge you to include Community Project Funding for it in the FY22 Interior Appropriations bill.

Sincerely,

Cyrus Ben,  
Tribal Chief