



**Congress of the United States**

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

August 19, 2020

Acting Assistant Secretary Dana Gartzke  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Suite 71014  
Washington, DC 20230

Mr. Gartzke,

I am writing in support of McNeese State University's Economic Development Administration (EDA) Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act application. The plan for investment of funds presented in this application are aligned with EDA's priorities and will greatly support the efforts to mitigate the devastating economic effects of the Coronavirus in Southwest Louisiana.

Calcasieu Parish, where McNeese is located, is the home to over \$100 billion in private investment into new liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities. These projects have made the region the epicenter of LNG investment and are greatly contributing to our nation's national security and energy independence. Placing a LNG Center of Excellence here will help support these projects and help the local communities take full advantage of the new opportunities they bring to the region. Through the Center of Excellence, McNeese will not only address a workforce gap in the LNG industry, but become the hub for all things LNG.

I would appreciate your full consideration of McNeese State University's application. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clay Higgins".

Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress

CC:

Mr. Jorge Ayala

U.S. Economic Development Administration

Regional Director

903 San Jacinto

Suite 206

Austin, TX 78701