

MISSISSIPPI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

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Town of Caledonia
Board of Aldermen

Dear Ladies & Gentlemen:

The Legislature is getting close to finalizing Legislation including the Small Municipalities and Limited Counties Fund. There are a handful of other grants, all of which come through the Finance Committee in the Mississippi Senate the Ways and Means Committee in the House of Representatives.

You all know I am Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and all such money comes through our Committee.

We have sent and passed to the Mississippi Senate \$5 million for the Small Municipalities and Limited Counties and much the same as we did this past fiscal year 2014. The bonds will be sold this summer and no later than August. The award will be made by the Mississippi Development Authority.

The same procedure was held last year and thirty one entities out of one hundred eleven were awarded the sums of money all being approximately \$150,000.00. Caledonia Natural Gas District and the Town of Caledonia both had requests in however, only one could be chosen from a municipality or the same area and the Caledonia Natural Gas District award was given. That could have been redone this year and the Town would have had higher priority however, the Sewer Project has moved on without the grant.

Honorable Jane Kilgore has talked with me on several occasions concerning a street light project for the Town of Caledonia and I have talked with the Mississippi Development Authority on multiple occasions. Being the Chairman of the money Committee in the House of Representatives where all the funds flow from, I have the opportunity of utilizing that influence to help secure a grant for a small county or small town should I so desire. Apparently the Mayor of the Town does not seek or seem interested in receiving \$150,000.00 grant for the lighting project, apparently because of my involvement in same. He has told individuals I lied to him last year about receiving a grant for the Sewer Project which is silly and facetious. The area got the Natural Gas grant and would certainly have been in line to get a sewer grant this year had there been the necessity for same, and had the Mayor pushed or sought out any help whatsoever. I want everyone to understand any grant funds the State has will come through the Ways and Means Committee and if the Mayor does not want me involved I am sorry. Lowndes County has

one of the two influential leadership positions in the Mississippi Legislature and it has been a pleasure to help bring things to the Golden Triangle area, so a situation such as this hurts my heart.

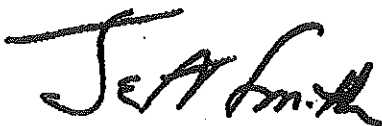
I am willing to assure my name is not attached to any project, and if a project such as the lighting project is agreed to we can dedicate same to the Mayor and give him full credit for same, even though that would be awfully unfair to Mrs. Kilgore and the ladies that have worked with her.

My point is this, I was raised in a Christian household and do not care anything about receiving credit. Results are the most important thing to me and if Caledonia wants the lighting project, I believe we can get \$150,000.00 toward same if it is desired by the Board. There is generally a 10% match and if this is still something the municipality would like notwithstanding the Mayor's objections, please let me know and I will be glad to handle the paperwork through Mrs. Ghelston, the Deputy Executor who would be in charge of same. Again, I love my hometown and have no desire to cause stress, backbiting, hard feelings, etc. I care nothing about credit or my name being involved in any way and if the project needs to be dedicated to an individual, as I said choose the Mayor or someone else.

Hopefully this will understand the intent to try to help the Town, notwithstanding the other thirty one awards last year Caledonia only received one rather than two. If I can help in any way or if anyone needs to ask me any questions please let me know.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Smith



Member of Mississippi House of Representatives
Chairman of Ways and Means Committee
JCS/sew