



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Louisiana AI Industrial Testbed project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the University of Louisiana Lafayette, located at 104 University Circle, Lafayette, LA 70503. The funding would be used to support Louisiana's rapidly expanding technology sector and support an industrial testbed at the university that will provide a secure, confidential computing and data environment to rapidly prototype and test AI models on real-world data across manufacturing, energy and chemicals, defense and autonomy, and life sciences and biotech. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will help create and sustain jobs in Louisiana. By providing local companies with a secure place to develop and test new AI tools using real-world data, this project will help key State industries stay competitive, expand operations, and hire more Louisiana workers.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Respectfully,

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

Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress