



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 Robotic Welding Operator project in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Fletcher Technical Community College, located at 331 Dickson Road, Houma, LA. The funding would be used for the acquisition of robotic welding cells, tooling, safety infrastructure, instructional equipment, and costs necessary to establish a comprehensive Robotic Welding Operator program. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the project will strengthen Louisiana's workforce pipeline for key industries including shipbuilding, infrastructure, energy, and manufacturing.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

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