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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5400

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the LEAP STEAM Resiliency and Disaster Relief Fab Lab project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is LEAP Social Enterprise, Inc., a nonprofit organization located at Alondra Street 100, 65th Infantry Avenue, Office #22, San Juan, Puerto Rico 00928. The funding will be used to establish a LEAP STEAM Resiliency and Disaster Relief Fab Lab (fabrication laboratory) in each of the 5 LEAP schools in Puerto Rico, located in the municipalities of San Juan, Bayamón, and Carolina. Laboratories will be equipped with computers, 3D printers, teaching materials, among other items in support of research and manufacturing of technologies to counter climate risks and increase disaster resiliency. The project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it promotes research, design, and manufacturing of new technology that can be applied in Puerto Rico and other parts of the country. The project supports STEAM education and improved academic achievement between the grades of K-12 and is expected to impact over 2,340 students while promoting community participation in STEAM-related activities.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided for the 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.

Sincerely,


Jennifer Gonzalez-Colón
Member of Congress