April 29, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the construction phase of the Center for Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture in Fiscal Year 2023.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Institute for Sustainable Biotechnology at the Inter American University of Puerto Rico. The entity is located on P.O. Box 517, Inter American University of Puerto Rico, Barranquitas Campus, Barranquitas, Puerto Rico 00794.

The purpose of this project is to fund the construction phase of the Center for Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture, and therefore expand the current laboratory capabilities of the current Institute for Sustainable Biotechnology. The center will develop in-vitro seeds to be used by local farmers and researchers to increase the volume and value of agricultural production, increase income and employment in the central region of the Island, and enhance economic competitiveness. Additionally, the center will provide technical assistance and training to farmers and community members who are interested in sustainable agriculture and crop maintenance using in-vitro techniques. The advances made possible by this center are expected to promote sustainable agriculture in communities throughout the Island, as well as climate resiliency and food security.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress