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May 23, 2025

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Town of Thompson Blighted Property Reuse for Economic Development in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Town of Thompson, located at 815 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale, CT 06255. Please note that North Grosvenordale is a village and census-designated place (CDP) within the Town of Thompson. The funding would be used to adaptively reuse the vacant and blighted town-owned structure at 65 Main Street in North Grosvenordale, Connecticut and a town owned property at 35 Marshall Street, North Grosvenordale, Connecticut. The redevelopment will provide for high school culinary education career training. Additionally, the redeveloped property will also house a municipally-supported small business support center with a focus on the agricultural sector.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because North Grosvenordale is an economically-challenged village in the region that has suffered due to the decline of the mill economy, catastrophic floods, and building fires that destroyed much of the downtown storefront properties. Rehabilitating this blighted property to provide for economic and career development will allow residents to build job skills and explore entrepreneurship, creating overall economic vitality for the community. The project will also benefit low-and-middle income residents who have been impacted by unemployment, poverty, and reliance on social services.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305 (a)(2) - construction, reconstruction, or installation of public works, facilities, and site or other improvements. The project meets the HUD CDBG national objective of benefiting low-and-moderate income persons, as the village of North Grosvenordale has a medium household income of \$52,708, which is only 66% of the State's median income. The project is also eligible under CDBG for rehabilitation of non-residential structures and assistance to profit-motivated businesses to carry out economic development and job creation or retention activities.

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

Sincerely,

JOE COURTNEY
Member of Congress