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March 19, 2026

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

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

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Cybersecurity and Applied STEM Workforce Initiative. The entity to receive funding for this project is Mitchell College, located at 437 Pequot Ave., New London, CT 06320. The funding would be used to purchase equipment and software to develop a simulation laboratory to replicate real-world industrial environments. The lab will be used to train students in interconnected digital, instrumentation, and monitoring systems that mirror real industrial workplaces in biomedical and diagnostic settings, defense industry, and cybersecurity.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will address the region's growing technical workforce needs and will prepare technicians to operate, monitor, and secure the modern systems that underpin our national security, manufacturing, and health care systems. The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes in line with the functions and activities described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code and consistent with and supportive of NIST's mission.

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