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May 23, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole Chairman Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro Ranking Member Committee on Appropriations U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for Benjamin Franklin Library Renovations Phase II project in fiscal year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Los Angeles located at 200 N Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012. The funding would be used to facilitate the second phase of rehabilitation of the Benjamin Franklin Library in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, which suffered structural damage due to water intrusion in the main reading room and has been closed to the public since 2020. The library construction has been delayed since 2020 after the HVAC unit was vandalized to the point of being unusable. This is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it would restore a key public resource which has been a staple of the Boyle Heights community for decades. The library supports many families and working-class people who rely on the library for children's programming and their own intellectual, technological and employment needs. Having spaces where workers and families can access information, technology and educate themselves and their community will generate a strong return on investment.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

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

Sincerely,

Jimmy Gomez Member of Congress