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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**JIMMY GOMEZ**  
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**ASSISTANT WHIP**

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger  
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 Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for FeedHOPE Commissary Training Complex project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Homeboy Industries, located at 130 W. Bruno Street, Los Angeles, 90012. The funding would be used for reconstruction, demolition and renovation of an acquired facility located at 2928 N. Main Street, Los Angeles. The facility will be the home of the FeedHOPE Training Complex. The complex will create 50-100 jobs annually and job training opportunities while also delivering social services. The complex will serve as an emergency meal factory and will provide on the job training, workforce development, and wrap-around social services to gang impacted, formerly incarcerated, low-income clients (i.e. Trainees) that reside within the City of Los Angeles. Over 70% of the populations served is also homeless and/or housing insecure, and 95% are low-income.

Homeboy's 18-Month Trainee work-therapy program is offered to the gang impacted previously incarcerated population and provides paid employment and training in career pathways leading to high wage jobs, low recidivism, and long-term economic mobility. The project will provide facilities that to house 50-100 new jobs, and in the first phase, will ultimately invest over \$15 million in community revitalization. The FeedHOPE complex will be used to produce and deliver emergency meals to local low-income families, individuals experiencing houselessness, and low-income seniors.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the improved facilities in the complex will house direct nutrition/services and provide employment and workforce development for individuals often deemed unemployable because of past record and a lack of skills (both emotional and professional). Homeboy industries provides a pathway to improve workforce participation from individuals who have historically not been productive in society, while providing the social services to achieve a 70% reduction in recidivism and increase in long-term quality of life. Individuals employed will be better prepared for careers in high demand fields of customer service/sales, culinary, and manufacturing/de-manufacturing. Studies have found that society yields a

positive return on investment for each payroll dollar spent by social enterprise programs; each \$1 produces benefits worth \$2.23 for society.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4).

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy Gomez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress