

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4206

May 2, 2025

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
2362-B RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa De Lauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
2362-B RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515

In re: FY26 Community Project Funding- Nuclear Engineering Baccalaureate Startup Funds

Dear Chair Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Nuclear Engineering Baccalaureate Startup Funds in Fiscal Year 2026. The entity to receive funding for this project is Tennessee Technological University, located at Derryberry Hall 206, Box 5007, Cookeville, TN 38505. The funding would be used for the development and implementation of a Department of Nuclear Engineering offering a Baccalaureate in Nuclear Engineering, including salaries for newly hired Ph.D. level Nuclear Engineers and equipment for a Junior/Senior level nuclear laboratory. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will address the looming shortage of nuclear engineers, with approximately 38% expected to retire in the next seven years, while providing job-ready engineers for Tennessee Valley Authority's planned nuclear reactor facilities.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes described in section 272 of title 15, United States Code.

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

Sincerely,



John Rose  
Member of Congress