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UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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CO-CHAIR EMERITUS  
CONGRESSIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS

March 29, 2026

Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the Como Regional Park Energy Efficiency Upgrades in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Saint Paul, located at 15 W Kellogg Blvd, 700 CH, Saint Paul, MN 55102.

The funding would be used to design and install a geothermal system to replace an aging, inefficient steam boiler system at the Aquatic Animals and Como Harbor Filtration Buildings on the campus of the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the year-round zoo operations bring substantial energy and maintenance costs, with energy bills exceeding \$1 million each year. Increasing the energy efficiency of the Como Regional Park campus will ensure that it remains a durable community asset that consistently generates regional economic benefits while delivering cultural and educational experiences to millions each year.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betty McCollum".

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress