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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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March 19, 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 Hydroponic Agriculture Based In Teaching And Technology in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is St. Catherine University, located at 2004 Randolph Ave., St. Paul, Minnesota 55105. The funding would be used for the acquisition and installation of three shipping containers outfitted as hydroponic growth labs to model food production in space. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it expands research and educational programming that aligns with national objectives of aeronautical and space activities required for food production for any extended crewed mission.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 20102 of title 51, United States Code.

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, appearing to read "Betty McCollum".

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress