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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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CO-CHAIR EMERITUS
CONGRESSIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN CAUCUS

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 Drone as a First Responder Program in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is Washington County located at 14949 62nd St N, Stillwater, Minnesota 55082. The funding would be used for the Washington County Sheriff's Office to place drone launch platforms in the southern, central, and northern regions of the county and purchase equipment to monitor live drone feeds and integrate them with additional data systems at a Real-Time Information Center hub. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it will enhance emergency response across the county by providing real-time aerial intelligence to first responders, enabling faster and better-informed decision-making during critical incidents.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by section 1701(b)(9) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. § 10381(b)(9)).

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