

## RANKING MEMBER COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DEAN MASSACHUSETTS AND NEW ENGLAND CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATIONS

DEMOCRATIC LEADER FRIENDS OF IRELAND CAUCUS

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger Chairwoman Committee on Appropriations H-307 The Capitol Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rose DeLauro Ranking Member Committee on Appropriations 1016 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting funding for the Southbridge Fire Station project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is the Town of Southbridge, located at 41 Elm Street Southbridge, MA 01550. The funding would be used to help support the construction of a new fire station.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the Southbridge firefighters provide critical emergency services to their rural community. For years these firefighters have worked in a facility that fails to meet the standards needed to diligently provide these services. The town has raised local taxes to borrow funds to construct a state-of-the-art fire station, and these funds will contribute to a budget shortfall effectively guaranteeing the completion of this project.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for the purposes authorized by Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

Pursuant to House rule XXIII, clause 17, I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Neal

Member of Congress