

RICHARD E. NEAL  
FIRST DISTRICT, MASSACHUSETTS



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**

May 10, 2023

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rose 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 Forest Park Horticulture and Learning Center project in fiscal year 2025. The entity to receive funding for this project is the City of Springfield, located at 36 Court St, Springfield, MA 01103. The funding would be used for restoring and repurposing the historic Original Zoo buildings in Forest Park, Springfield. The Center's primary goal is to engage residents of all ages in the study of horticulture and the green industry while emphasizing the importance of environmental stewardship.

This is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because it is a much-needed resource for the citizens of Springfield and the Pioneer Valley. Through community engagement efforts and innovative programming, the Center is poised to make a significant impact on education, environmental sustainability, and economic development for years to come.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for the purposes authorized by 42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(2).

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard E. Neal".

Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress

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