

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 23, 2025

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 2026. 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).

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

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