

TIM BURCHETT

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1122 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4202
(202) 225-5435

DISTRICT OFFICES:
800 Market Street, Suite 110
Knoxville, TN 37902
Phone: (865) 523-3772
Fax: (865) 544-0728

331 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804
Phone: (865) 984-5464
Fax: (865) 984-0521

<https://burchett.house.gov>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4202

May 3, 2024

Chairman Tom Cole
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro
House Committee on Appropriations
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Thank you for your work on the fiscal year 2025 appropriations legislation. I respectfully request funding for the following project in Tennessee's second congressional district:

Project Name: AI and Robotics Education Program and Equipment

Entity: Socially Equal Energy Efficient Development

Address: 1617 Dandridge Ave, Knoxville, TN 37915

Project Description: SEED requests \$1,000,000 for a STEM-focused urban farming workforce development program that will teach critical skills to low-income young adults in Knoxville, TN. The program includes project-based experiential learning, instruction, student project showcases, and community events. STEM topics include robotics, design thinking, sensor-driven AI, AI ethics, 3D printing, food security, advanced farming, and data ownership & stewardship. Notably, the program expands and co-locates with established SEED projects, and will be operated in conjunction with local institutions of higher education.

Project Justification: Artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and data-related competencies are critical skills for the modern STEM workforce. This project introduces 'opportunity youth' to STEM skills and prepares an under-engaged workforce demographic for jobs in the nation's priority STEM disciplines including AI and robotics. Home-growing our nation's STEM workforce is essential for our national security and global competitiveness. The service area of this project is also a USDA-designated food desert. The project will improve access to healthier food choices and reduce food insecurity, leading to improved long-term health and economic outcomes.

Federal Nexus: Section 20102 of title 51, USC

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in the above project. Thank you again for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tim Burchett,
Member of Congress

COMMITTEES:

Committee on Foreign Affairs

SUBCOMMITTEES:

Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia — Vice Chair

Oversight and Accountability

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

SUBCOMMITTEES:

Aviation

Highways and Transit

Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials

Committee on Oversight and Accountability

SUBCOMMITTEES:

Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation

Government Operations and the Federal Workforce